

Teaching Portfolio

John C. Kincheloe

Statement of Pedagogical Philosophy

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A teacher is not someone who imparts knowledge; a teacher is someone who aids students in developing their own skills to the highest possible potential. An over concentration on facts hinders the ability to help the student, and should be avoided when possible. One's subject is a tool to greater understanding of the world not the goal in itself. The greatest gift a teacher can bestow is to challenge someone to question. From the point of questioning, the teacher must confront the student with the task of answering that question, and answering with a level of originality and uniqueness that said student had previously not achieved. Taking the original idea, the teacher must both encourage and aid the student in forming an argument that is convincing due to the utilization of organization, language, evidence, and the interweaving of all related knowledge.

In order to help students achieve such a goal, the teacher must allow the student to understand the interrelatedness of facts, ideas, trends, and patterns. This is not a skill that can be taught but something that must be cultivated and demonstrated in an interactive manner, allowing the students to come to a realization of the "greater picture" through their own abilities. The teacher must, therefore, allow enough diversity of activities within the classroom to allow students of all learning styles to achieve their potential, and construct courses and evaluation around clearly defined student learning objectives.

It is not the job of the student to learn. It is the job of the teacher to provide an environment that challenges and entertains while reaching out to every student. In doing so, it is the responsibility of the teacher to engage the students on both an individual and group level.

At all times a teacher must maintain an enthusiasm for both subject and student that promotes participation and therefore development.

**INSTRUCTIONAL OBSERVATION
FORM FOR CLASSROOM AND ESL
SETTINGS**

Faculty Member John Kincheloe

Evaluator Jayne Battye _____

Date April 2nd. 2008

Class United States History II

1. Was the lesson organized and clearly presented?

The class was clearly organized and information was presented well. John used PowerPoint images to illustrate the points he was making. His PowerPoint information was well presented as it was not overwhelming but very simply done. This is the best way to use PowerPoint in my opinion.

2. Describe the level of student interest and participation.

There were 27 students in the class. All were taking notes, most were referring to their textbooks as the lecture proceeded and many asked questions and got involved in discussion.

3. Describe the quality of interpersonal relations between the instructor and students. **Both the instructor and the students used humor with each other. There is clearly an amiable relationship between John and the students. When John needed to call the class to order he did so effectively by raising his voice and respectfully drawing the students back to the task at hand.**

4. What was particularly effective about the instruction? And, what specific suggestions would you make concerning how instruction could be improved?

John was particularly effective in making connections between the material being studied (America during the "Red Scare") and a movie students had watched the previous week. He also used the textbook and used the classroom space very well by moving around at the front of the class and also moving toward students at the back of the class.

It is clear to me that John is an experienced teacher who is developing his craft with confidence.

The only suggestion I will venture is that John ask more questions of students to gage their knowledge of the subject matter. John may already do this but this was not clear to me during this evaluation.

Sample of student's comments

"I took ... Kinch last semester online and loved it. His instructions were easy to follow... He kept me interested in the class... I am actually taking (this course) to fill in for an elective. haha Who does that, that doesn't like history? Me, because I liked the teacher."

Spring 2010

"I liked the Approach he took to this class. Really analyzing the time and what was happening, vs just memorizing facts."

"He talked to the class as a discussion rather than forced teaching."

"Very professional, takes pride in his work. He knows how to keep the entire class involved and working as a team to understand the material."

Fall 2009

"Professor Kincheloe was the best teacher I have had yet."

"I like this class, it was very open and I felt like I could speak w/out sounding stupid."

"I really enjoyed taking this course it opened my eyes about the subject and made me want to learn more... Class discussions were stimulating."

"Asset to the University (Professor Kincheloe)!"

Spring 2008 - Environmental History

"He always allotted room for personal thought and opinions."

"His lectures keep me interested and he was enthusiastic about what he was teaching"

"Very Knowledgeable & you can tell he loves the subject and to teach it."

"I actually learned something in the course and I liked his teaching Method."

"He knew and was passionate about what he was teaching."

Fall 2007

"Kinch is the most personable teacher I've had in years. The lectures were scintillating."

"I think he is a good teacher with lots of positive energy."

"I had a lot of fun and feel as though I did really well because of the teacher."

"I don't think Kinch can be more effective. His teaching and lectures are at the highest level of perfection."

Spring 2006

References:

Recommendations will be sent upon request.

Jayne Battye, (Dept. Chair)
Quinebaug Valley Community College ~
742 Upper Maple St., Danielson CT 06239 •
Phone: 860-412-7254
Email: JBattye@qvcc.commnet.edu

Ann Higginbotham Dept. Chair
Eastern Connecticut State University
83 Windham St. (webb 326)
Willimantic Ct. 06226
Phone: (860) 465-4594
Email: HIGGINBOTHAM@easternct.edu

Charles Evans Professor/mentor
Northern Virginia Community College
1000 H.F. Byrd Highway
Sterling, VA 20164-8699
Phone: 703.450.2520
Email: cevans@nvcc.edu