Center for Excellence in Teaching

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“Recharging Your Teaching Energy: What to do When You Get Bored of Teaching Your Courses.”
GET OUT OF TOWN: Problems without Passports, Brazil
Lead a Problems without Passports Course

• I was sent to Brazil to investigate for a class.

• All expenses paid plus a salary.
• Students with 3.0 GPA get money to cover their costs $3,000. through SURF.

• Tourism is expected on your trip.
• Great for summer school!!
“We see with our own eyes”

• My general teaching objectives in Anthropology:

  1. Understand other perspectives.
     (classmates, authors, videos, guests, field trips)

  2. Participant Observation: (learn the methodology for anthropology through our field trips, class projects)
BACK HOME: Building community

• *First day of class (so not about me):*
• I ask students:
What are the teaching strategies that best help you learn?

.... Think of your favorite teachers from high school or college.
How to get students to assimilate, absorb ...

• Activate the *senses*.

• Create an *emotional bond* to the materials.

• Mary Helen Immordino-Yang, Ed.D., cognitive neuroscientist, educational psychologist. USC

“We feel, therefore we learn.”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=85BZRVSE6M0o&feature=endscreen
Student Centered

Digging into the classroom:

**Mixing** it up…. In and out of the classroom, lectures, visuals (film clip activity), discussion circles.

**Foods** that are discussed (walnuts, dried fruits – foods taken to the menstrual huts in Pakistan)

**Acting** (role play interviews) for research projects.
Experiences in the Classroom, What is VEILING? Meaning?
Flipping and a Debate

• The PowerPoint/lecture is on line
• The students send in responses to reading before class.

• We debate/discuss in class:
  “Debate”: (Organ trade?, should there be a free market for transplant organs),
  Students chose their side, together constructed their argument and reported. (create cognitive strain)

Film on topic,
Reexamine sides.....

See: “7 Things You Should Know About Flipped Classrooms.”
Guest: Hypnotherapist with her singing bowls leads the class in meditation and stress reduction. Ea. class we now begin with a brief meditation. Helps focus, relates to topic.
Field Trips: Malibu Hindu Temple, doing ethnography. Fire ceremony... Relate the material to your own neighborhood.
So close yet so foreign. Exposition and Vermont. USC Mosque Friday prayer. Write an interactive blog on your experience on Blackboard. Relate to course readings.
“Breaking Bread”

• USC pays for a **MEAL** (@$10./student), faculty apply 7 days before. On-campus, off or at your home.

• [http://undergrad.usc.edu/faculty/breaking_bread/index.html](http://undergrad.usc.edu/faculty/breaking_bread/index.html) (Office of Undergraduate Programs)