

ITSC 8665 - Graduate Teaching Seminar

During the Spring 2020 semester, I took my first semester of the teaching seminar ITSC 8665. In this class, I learned how to address specific challenges teachers might face. Some of these challenges included teaching online courses vs. in person courses, dealing with difficult situations, and getting used to public speaking. Additionally, I learned how to design various aspects of a course including the course syllabus and a lesson plan. In fact, one of our assignments was to work with our group to design a lesson and then teach that lesson to the class. During this assignment, I learned the importance of having a backup plan for your lesson in case students are unable to participate or something happens to the technology. In our case, we had to consider how using WebEx would affect the interaction level of the class with our activity. We also had to consider alternative methods for our classmates to participate in the jeopardy game we designed besides talking in case they were not able to unmute their microphones or their microphones did not work. For this, we utilized the chat feature in WebEx. Besides learning to be flexible and prepare for the unexpected, this activity taught me to consider the design of a lesson so that all of the activities, including the prep work and lecture, are as engaging and informative as possible so that students are more likely to participate and pay attention in class.

CTL Workshops

On April 9th, I attended the CTL's (Center for Teaching and Learning) workshop KeepTeaching: End-of-Semester Alternate Assessments and Projects. In this workshop, I learned that it is important to consider the format of assessments assigned to students, especially since classes are being taught remotely. Since this limits some of the possibilities for interaction and feedback, one of the main suggestions was to divide projects or papers into milestones. This would not only give students more chances for feedback but would also help them manage their deadlines and workload since they no longer have in class sessions for work or questions.

On April 9th, I attended the CTL's (Center for Teaching and Learning) workshop KeepTeaching: Mapping Student Workload for Online Activities and Assessments. In this workshop, I learned a method of mapping the expected student workload for the course across the week. During this class, I learned that the instructor should plan out how much time each activity should take during the week, including the time spent in class, to determine how much time a student would spend on the course. This helps ensure that the workload provided to the student is manageable and is appropriate for the credit level of the class. Additionally, providing this map, or a version of it, to students, can help them plan their week and the course work from their other classes so that they can complete all of their assignments in a timely manner.

ITIS 6420

This semester I assisted with ITIS 6420- Usable Security and Privacy. This class was taught at the graduate level, which was my first time working with a class that was only graduate students. This gave me an excellent opportunity to learn some of the differences in teaching an undergraduate and graduate course. One of the things I learned was that graduate students often have industry experience that they apply to their examples. Therefore, explaining topics using similar examples can help the students understand and relate to the usefulness of the material.

Another thing I learned this semester was the importance of keeping lectures short and interactive. During long lectures, we often lost the attention of a few students. Consequently,

we began incorporating interactive activities, such as online quizzes through Kahoot, to highlight important concepts from the prep work reading as well as teach pieces of the lecture in a different format. This helped engage the class and encourage students to pay attention to the reading materials and the lecture.

Fall 2020

During the Fall semester, I will assist with ITIS 3130- HCI. Additionally, I will be helping to design an online version of ITIS 4420/6420 as well as taking my second semester of ITSC 8665.