

CS 365: SEAS Teaching Practicum
2011 Jan 25

Week 1. Teaching by doing; and then reflecting

Welcome to the SEAS Teaching Practicum! We begin to look at teaching, by teaching. Students will prepare and teach a non-academic topic of their choice. We'll also share what each of us think about teaching and the role of the teacher. Students should leave the session with questions to ask themselves about teaching, beginning the process of reflection.

Agenda

- Introductions & brief course overview
- "Open Mic"
- Discussion about teaching / role of teacher
- Syllabus / Logistics/Assignment for next week

Introductions

- Course goals & staff -- course site <http://seas.harvard.edu/courses/cs365/>
 - o John Girash <girash@seas.harvard.edu>, office SC317b / 5-3754
 - o Jason Waterman <waterman@eecs.harvard.edu> office MD238
 - o both of us <cs365-staff@hcs.harvard.edu>
- become more effective teachers and communicators
- become more confident and at-ease in presenting and sharing ideas
- practice, watch others, give/receive feedback (+ to self). Reflect, repeat
- Students (Name, affiliation, when teaching, what you want to get out of course)
- Why we are excited
 - Teaching skills are universally useful
 - Good teaching -> rewarding, enjoyable experience
 - Still a new course – shape experience to your personal goals

Open Mic exercise: Teach us something.

Take a few minutes to prepare a topic of your choice to teach to the rest of us. The topic can be about anything you like, with the only caveat being that the topic must NOT be academic. Feel free to involve the audience (or not) as you see fit.

Logistics

- Short (2-3 min.) teaching; don't worry about finishing "in time"
- Ask the teacher to comment
- Brief comments from around the room

Discussion about teaching / role of teacher

- What did you get out of the micro exercise?
- What does teaching mean to you?
- What makes a good teacher?

SEAS Teaching Practicum
Assignment 1 (for week #2, 2011 Feb 1)

Please complete all parts of this assignment. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the course staff (contact info on other side).

[Reading]

Begin reading *The Torch or the Firehose* from the prologue, up to but not including the section titled "A Word About Pedagogy", available online at <http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/html/icb.topic165073/default.html> (or in *Resources...Books* at <http://bokcenter.harvard.edu/>, or in paper form in SC318).

[Nano-teaching]

Prepare a 3 (or so) minute lesson on an *academic* topic of your choice. You will teach the topic to the rest of us in our next class meeting. When preparing, think back to our discussion on teaching and the role of a good teacher. In both preparation and presentation, you should strive to apply concrete tips from this week's reading.

While you will only be teaching for a few minutes, do come in with some written notes for yourself that you can refer to while teaching.

[Provide us feedback]

Send a short (few sentences) response to the following questions to the course staff email list <cs365-staff@hcs.harvard.edu>:

- *How do you feel following our first class?*
- *What did you like about the class?*
- *Is there anything you wish we had done differently?*

Please be as specific as you can and provide explanations (e.g., don't just tell us you liked something, tell us why you liked it). We'll summarize anonymously for next week, in order to start the process of reflection. Note: your feedback to us here is not anonymous, but there will be such opportunities later in the course!