

HIST602B: TEACHING SEMINAR

Instructor: David G. Atwill

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Classroom: Weaver 415

Meeting time: Wednesday 4-5 p.m.

Course website: <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/d/g/dga11/HIST602b.htm>

Course description: This seminar is a series of weekly meetings for graduate students in the Department of History & Religion who will begin teaching department courses. An introductory look at issues faced in the classroom, the seminar will address a broad array of techniques and tools to enhance one's teaching. In addition, there will be periodic classroom observation followed up by oral and written comments.

Grading Policy: As a one-credit course, this seminar is not meant to be a substantial burden on your time, rather it is hoped it will be a forum to think about, critically examine and hone your teaching. As such, the primary requirement is that you attend the class regularly and offer substantive contributions to the discussions and actively reflect on your teaching.

There will be no written assignments. However, every Sunday evening I will e-mail several questions that I would like you to think about prior to Monday's seminar. These questions will range from the philosophical ("Do I teach better when I wear my green sweater?") to the very specific ("How does one put documents on e-reserve?").

Schedule of Meetings:

August 29 (1-4 p.m.) – Introduction, the 'Fine Print' & the 'Toolkit'

August 31 (1-4 p.m.) – Organizing your class: Syllabus, Lectures and Exams

September 11 – Using e-Lion, Angel and the Web to Your Advantage

September 18 – The Psychology of Teaching: Prompting, Preventing, and Praising

September 25 – Offering Oral and Written Feedback

October 2 – Grading (or Knowing It When You See it)

October 9 – Classroom Observation (set time with professor)

October 16 – The Anatomy of a Lecture

November 13 – Classroom Observation (set time with professor)