Writing a Teaching Philosophy

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http://www.fossati.us/images/teaching-wordle.png
Objectives for Session

• Essential elements
• Create a template
• Structure
The desired area of research and expertise is in physico-chemical processes for water treatment.

Applicants must have strong records demonstrating outstanding research, as well as a commitment to quality teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Applicants should provide Curriculum Vitae, Statement of Teaching Philosophy, Research Plan, list of three Referees...
Art History and Museum Studies
Assistant Professor
University of Lethbridge
Location: Alberta
Post until: 2015-10-01

... Ability to teach Canadian Art History, First Nations Art History, and an introductory level survey of art since neoclassicism is required. Other desired teaching areas include: contemporary art and theory, survey of Western or World art, and museum studies.

... submit a letter of interest describing their research and teaching expertise, a curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, two samples of recent scholarship, and two sample syllabi....
Pharmacology
Assistant/Associate Professor
University of Toronto
Location: Ontario
Closing Date: October 8, 2015

... In particular, individuals with a specialization in neuropharmacology, molecular pharmacology or drug metabolism/toxicology are encouraged to apply...

Applications should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae including names and email addresses of three referees, a detailed teaching dossier (including a statement of teaching philosophy), and a statement outlining current and future research interests.
Anthropology - Assistant Professor
Athabasca University

Location: Alberta
Date posted: 2014-08-27

This is a full-time, tenure stream position that requires a commitment to excellence in teaching, research and university service. The candidate should show evidence of, or strong potential for an active research program in his or her area of specialization. Familiarity with online systems of course delivery and related student services would be a strong asset.
What is a Teaching Philosophy?

• What do I believe about teaching and learning?
• What do I want my students to achieve and how?
• How do I know if I am being a good teacher?
• What would I like to try in the future?
• I believe learning takes place because...
• My role in student learning is ....
• The goals I have for my students are ...
• A metaphor for what I believe about teaching and learning is ....
• Examples of support ....
Activity 1: Think about a teacher who had a positive effect on your learning. Why?

Share

Give a man a fish, he’ll eat for a day.
Teach a man to fish, he’ll eat for life.

Lao Tzu

http://www.jonathanbaldwin.co.uk/storage/philosophy-images/my_teaching_philosophy/Teaching_Philosophy_2.030-001.png?__SQUARESPACE_CACHEVERSION=1280687591239
Activity 2: Think about a classroom experience you had that exemplifies a lack of interest in student learning

Share

http://kbarnstable.files.wordpress.com/2011/02/student-teacher-cartoon.gif?w=300&h=300
Teaching allows me to fulfill what I believe to be a fundamental responsibility of biologists: to communicate information to the public so they can make informed decisions regarding the environment. There are basic biological principles that should be understood by college-educated citizens. Among these are the process of evolution and a basic understanding of genetics, the interdependence of biological systems, levels of organization in biology, basic human anatomy and physiology, and the basics of scientific decision making. I also want students to appreciate and value biological diversity and to leave my class with an increased sense of stewardship for the earth…

http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/philosophy/samples/index.html#biology
First Paragraph(s)

• My role in student learning is ....
• I believe learning takes place because...
• The goals I have for my students are ...
• A metaphor for what I believe about teaching and learning is ....
• Examples of support ....
Second Paragraph(s)

• In my classroom I use ..... 
• Students respond by ...
• My teaching goals are met through ....
• I evaluate my students success by ....
• I meet the different needs of my students by...
Sample Teaching Philosophy: History (D. Rayson)

I am a proponent of active learning and use a variety of methods to encourage discussion and interaction ... One method that I frequently use in small classes is to assign students to come to class in the role of ... historical characters (... a southern unionist ..., a northern businessman whose business is based on access to cheap cotton, an escaped slave active in the abolition and women's rights movements...) in order to debate the issue of secession, for example, as that character. As part of this process, I ask each person to base their "character's" point of view on specific historical documents to demonstrate that those experiencing the same events often believed, and acted upon, different "truths." I also organize debates ...

http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/philosophy/samples/index.html.....
Activity 3: What was an activity that you used in your class or did as a student that really helped you understand the material?

http://web.olivet.edu/~cspjuth/images/board.gif

By Gabe Martin

After his subtler methods of getting the new class’ attention had failed, Mr. Johnson decided it was time for his "not-so-subtle" methods.
• In my classroom I use .....  
• Students respond by ...  
• My teaching goals are met through ....  
• I evaluate my students success by ....  
• I meet the different needs of my students by...
Final Paragraph

• How does my role as a teacher help my student to be successful beyond my classroom?
• What do you do outside of the classroom?
• What do I bring to my discipline in the way that I teach?
• Where would I take my teaching in the future to enhance student learning?
Ingrid Elizabeth Hersh
Pennsylvania State University

The purpose of teaching is to help students in their ongoing journey of learning. Everyone has the ability to learn, but it is the teaching that leads learning. By teaching the subject well, instructors are transforming the subject matter into an inquiry that is both exciting and relevant to the students in front of them. The journey of teaching is analogous to the journey of learning: it is a continuous, challenging, and exciting process that never fails to be rewarding.

http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/i/e/ieh102/Philosophy.pdf
Final Paragraph

• How does my role as a teacher help my student to be successful beyond my classroom?

• What do you do outside of the classroom?

• What do I bring to my discipline in the way that I teach?

• Where would I take my teaching in the future to enhance student learning?
Qualities of a Good Teaching Philosophy

• 1 – 2 pages
• Format
• Personal
• Aligns with institutions philosophy
• Use examples
• Reflective
Qualities of a Good Teaching Philosophy

• Student Centered
• Well written
• Cite your sources
• Avoid rigid statements
• Include your research
• Have someone read it

http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3084/2543060592_b63fc3c815.jpg
References

• Developing a Philosophy of Teaching Statement (Ohio State)  
  http://ucat.osu.edu/teaching_portfolio/philosophy/philosophy2.html

• Rubric for Statements of Teaching Philosophy (Kaplan, O'Neal, Meizlish, Carillo, and Kardia, 2005)  
  http://www.crlt.umich.edu/gsis/onedayPFF2005/TeachingPhilosophyRubric.pdf

• CRLT Occasional Paper #23, Writing a Statement of Teaching Philosophy for the Academic Job Search, (O’Neal, Meizlish, and Kaplan, 2007)  
  http://www.crlt.umich.edu/publinks/CRLT_no23.pdf

• What’s Your Philosophy on Teaching, and Does it Matter? (2003) Article from The Chronicle of Higher Education  
  http://chronicle.com/article/Whats-Your-Philosophy-on-T/45132/


• 4 Steps to a Memorable Teaching Philosophy. (2010) Article from The Chronicle of Higher Education  
  http://chronicle.com/article/4-Steps-to-a-Memorable-Teac/124199/

• How to Write a Statement of Teaching Philosophy. (2003) Article from The Chronicle of Higher Education  

• University of Yale: http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/teaching/forms/Sample%20Teaching%20Statements%20(ALL).pdf
• Ohio State: http://ucat.osu.edu/teaching_portfolio/philosophy/philosophy2.html#samples
• University of Waterloo http://www.uwo.ca/tsc/pdf/GradStudent_TPhil_examples.pdf
• University of Saskatoon: http://www.usask.ca/gmcte/drupal/?q=node/189
• University of Georgia: http://www.ctl.uga.edu/teach_asst/ta_mentors/philosophy/index.html