

**UNIV-460 Experiential Teaching, Section 44 Tutorial Methods of Instruction.
Final Instructor Course Evaluation – Spring 2007
20 out of 21 students responded.**

1. This semester I was a:

- a. PBL tutor for Dr. White or Dr. Dion 9
- b. PLTL Leader for Dr. Wingrave or Kramer 11

2. My primary reason(s) for being a peer facilitator and taking this course was (were):

- a. Prepare for the MCAT 6
- b. A requirement 1
- c. Interest in teaching 14
- d. Financial 3
- e. Other 4
 - i. Personal interest; made me understand the material better myself.
 - ii. I had a rally good experience taking Chem-342 and wanted to help other students have a good experience too.
This course helped me reach my goal of learning how to best help my students.
 - iii. Experience being a tutor.
 - iv. To be able to challenge other students and help them enjoy the course while also challenging myself.

Respond to the following statements	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree	Number	Average	Standard Deviation.
3. I think that the Tutor Methods instructor has a good knowledge of how students learn and how to use problem-based learning and group-based learning.	0	0	0	2	18	20	4.900	0.300
4. The instructor demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the subject matter.	0	0	0	2	18	20	4.900	0.300
5. The instructor presented the material in an interesting way.	0	0	0	4	16	20	4.800	0.400
6. The instructor encouraged class participation.	0	0	0	0	20	20	5.000	0.000
7. I would recommend this instructor because of his teaching to others considering taking this course.	0	0	0	3	17	20	4.850	0.357
8. Overall, the instructor was effective in facilitating my learning of the material in this	0	0	0	4	16	20	4.800	0.400

course.								
9. I have enjoyed the tutoring experience.	0	0	0	2	18	20	4.900	0.300
10. I think that my understanding of my major field of study has improved as the result of being a tutor.	0	0	0	9	11	20	4.550	0.497
11. I think that the tutoring experience has helped me to better understand the way that I and other people think and learn.	0	0	0	3	17	20	4.850	0.357
12. I think that my interest in incorporating teaching into some aspect of my professional career has been enhanced by this experience.	0	0	0	8	12	20	4.600	0.490
13. I feel that the students in my tutorial group have benefited from the experience of having an undergraduate tutor guide them.	0	0	0	7	13	20	4.650	0.477
14. As the result of the tutoring experience, I feel that I am more comfortable interacting with my professors.	0	0	3	8	9	20	4.300	0.714
15. I would recommend the tutoring experience to others.	0	0	1	5	14	20	4.650	0.572
16. As the result of the tutoring experience, I think that I have an improved ability to provide constructive criticism in situations when it is needed.	0	0	2	11	7	20	4.250	0.622
17. As the result of the tutoring experience, I think that I have an improved ability to mediate conflicts that arise when people work in groups.	0	0	3	7	10	20	4.350	0.726
18. As the result of the tutoring experience, I think that I have an improved ability to help groups to run smoothly and efficiently.	0	0	1	5	14	20	4.650	0.572
19. As the result of the tutoring experience, I think that I have an improved ability to use questions rather than statement to lead others to take a deeper look.	0	0	0	3	17	20	4.850	0.357
20. As the result of the tutoring experience, I think that I have an improved ability to deal effectively with inappropriate behaviors exhibited by others.	0	0	2	8	10	20	4.400	0.663
	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent			
21. Overall I would rate the tutoring experience.	0	0	0	9	11	20	4.550	0.497
22. Overall I would rate the Tutor Methods course.	0	0	0	5	15	20	4.750	0.433

Please respond to the following questions:

23. Identify or describe some thing(s) that Professor White does particularly well.

- A. Professor White describes situations within PBL and PLTL settings very well. He also relates to our feelings as PBL and PLTL instructors as a result of certain tutoring scenarios well.
- B. He never assumes too much of his students, which I think is a real key character trait of a great professor. Too often professors assume their students know more than they do and it quickly results in A0 students that are over their heads and b) decreased cohesiveness between student and instructor. While he never assumes too much in the beginning, he quickly gets a feel for exactly where in the scheme of understanding they lie. He then encourages them to not only go out and learn what they don't know, but other pertinent information of interest that they won't specifically be tested on later in order to enrich their overall understanding of the subject matter.
- C. Encourages group discussions, asks a lot of questions. Dr. White is very enthusiastic about the subject and makes class interesting. He definitely makes you want to come to class and makes you want to be a great tutor/student.
- D. Dr. White truly believes in the benefits of peer-learning and portrays this sentiment well to the students in his class. His passion and expertise make the class more interesting. I also enjoyed the "fish-bowl" demonstration.
- E. Dr. White really knows how to get his audience to critically think. He does this very well, considering the deep silence that follows after his questions, with hands raising afterward. He also gives students situations where the answer is not easily obtained, which stimulates curiosity. Then as students obtain the answer, the answer is not easily forgotten, since the student had to critically think in order to obtain it.
- F. Professor White is very good at encouraging participation, as well as stimulating interesting group debates within the class.
- G. He is a great listener. He was really interested in our experiences as tutors and was able to help us and give us advice on situations that we were having trouble with. He was also really interested in teaching and how to do it effectively. He was really good at getting us to question whether or not traditional methods are really as effective as one might think.
- H. Gets students to think about the deeper meaning of the subject matter.
- I. He is very good at explaining things in an understandable manner, also he is not judgmental and he is very patient.
- J. He made a lot of the material interesting with videos or articles. Dr. White also emphasized class participation so it was beneficial to hear about other facilitators experiences.
- K. Professor White is very good at creating class participation and truly listening to what students have to say.
- L. Dr. White is a wonderful professor and is definitely great at inspiring his student to think outside the box. He is very insightful and helpful in resolving conflicts with students in the tutoring group.
- M. He encourages group participation and forces participation in class. Forces you to think outside the lines.
- N. Dr. White is able to present material in an interesting way. He realizes that lecture classes are not necessarily the best way for students to learn. Material was chose specifically to address issues with being tutors and things that we were encountering. It all seemed relevant and was more interactive and discussion based.

- O.** Professor White is very good at engaging students and encouraging participation among members of the group. I felt extremely comfortable expressing myself and my ideas in class because of this. Also, he is able to keep students interested by using various types of media including relevant videos, power point presentations, and articles. Dr. White is clearly very excited about what he does and it definitely shows.
- P.** Professor White is very good at encouraging class participation and using activities to highlight how students think and learn. He was also very successful in getting us to learn to ask questions back to the students rather than merely providing answers to students who had questions about the material.
- Q.** Professor White is extremely good at encouraging class participation. He mixes his lectures with activities that keep each class interesting. I also really like hearing about other people's workshops in the beginning of every class. It helps me to think about how to handle potential problems, and gives me good ideas that can be incorporated into my own section.
- R.** Engages the class in discussion and provided interesting outside material
- S.** Mediates discussion
- T.** Dr. White definitely makes this class interesting. He didn't just lecture, we did a lot of hands on activities too which was a lot of fun

24. Identify or describe some way(s) that Professor White could improve his teaching (and your learning).

- A.** Professor White could discuss situations in which PBL or PLTL must be abandoned (contradictory to the purpose of the courses perhaps)
- B.** He has been doing this for so long and continually critically evaluating himself for so long that there isn't a whole lot of room for improvement left. The only comment I really have is for the (CHEM342 class) that he does a good job of trying to appeal to all types of learning, but possibly consider incorporating more demonstration. The thing is, this doesn't necessarily have to be an introduction the way people might normally think of it. This could be a great way of wrapping up articles. Bring in necessary materials to do an experiment and lay them down on a table in front of the class and be like, "OK tell me what to do." I think that the way UNIV460 is presented is very good and do not have any complaints/criticism.
- C.** Lecture more is the only thing I can think of, but I know that would defeat the purpose of PBL.
- D.** Maybe give some sort of a survey at the beginning of the semester to identify what misconceptions the workshop leaders/PBL tutors have as a whole. These issues could then be addressed more effectively in training.
- E.** There are times in the course where the material becomes tough to grasp, such as some theories of understanding. It would help if Dr. White would take the time to explain thoroughly what the original message means, so that it can be applied in a more practical setting.
- F.** The group problems (such as the ice cube question) were very interesting – more of these types of discussion would be useful.
- G.** Sometimes the course went a little long and time went by slowly. He might be able to improve it by some more interactive components.
- H.** [No Response]
- I.** I don't know I personally have not complaints...

- J. He taught the course really well. Maybe he could dedicate more class time to solving problems or questions that the students had that the leaders did not really know how to answer or solve.
- K. We could have maybe split up our groups halfway through the class to foster more class interaction.
- L. [No Response]
- M. More handouts so it is easier to follow discussions.
- N. I would add to the tutorial methods class more activities like the fish bowl. At the beginning of class, when the tutors are explaining how things are going in their group that week, I would have the other tutors give advice or constructive criticism about how problems should be handled.
- O. Overall, I felt this course was very interactive which I enjoyed. Some of the readings were long and difficult to get through at times, so I think it would have been better to have different groups present the topics and preparing them outside of class instead of having everyone read the articles on their own.
- P. An improvement could be to discuss more specific science questions that could be asked to stimulate the students' learning.
- Q. Sometimes the assigned readings were hard to get through. Maybe a weekly group quiz would encourage people to read the assigned articles more thoroughly. Another alternative would be to have groups take turns presenting assigned articles.
- R. [No Response]
- S. More methods or systems such as Blooms Taxonomy
- T. I can't really think of much to say for this...Dr. White is just great. He really cares about what we have to say and our opinions.
- U.

25. Comment on the course.

- A. The course was very informative. By handling open discussions of other people's experiences, I know what to look for in future PLTL classes. The questioning methods were very helpful. Professor White gives new slants to situations that I had not thought of before.
- B. I think this course is a very beneficial one for tutors to have, in the sense that the open forum type atmosphere really fosters great discussion. When tutors are able to get together and discuss how things are going it really allows people to see that they either might not be the only one experiencing a particular problem or all the varying points of view being expressed might give them a window into how they might do a particular thing better. One thing that struck me as decidedly out of place throughout the majority of the semester though was the obvious lack of cohesiveness between PLTL people and their mentors. Would there somehow be a way to connect their respective mentors to the course? Possibly consider having them present during every class (at least for the open forum at the beginning) or even as their schedule allows I think would be a very beneficial thing to look into. Also, integrating more outside reading (just a little, nothing major) might be a feasible thing to do.
- C. Very good course, allowed for the communication with students who are doing similar things. Sharing and discussing experiences with each other and Dr. White was helpful in becoming a better tutor. Things like motivation and common scientific misconceptions were excellent topics to cover. Dr. White also demonstrated some persuasive evidence and statistics showing why PBL is an effective way to learn.

- D.** Overall, I liked the material presented in the class and thought it was beneficial. I think the time at the beginning of class share experiences is a really good way to create a sense of camaraderie between the tutors.
- E.** This course was very beneficial as I tutored the CHEM104 students. I now seem to have the methods that I seemed to lack in my experience with the CHEM103 students last semester. I now know how to communicate to the students better, the most effective number of students in a group, and apply some various theories of motivation and understanding to students. One gentleman came to me and gave me a compliment that I've been waiting to hear since I became a PLTL tutor that I didn't hear last semester, and that was I was the best workshop leader he's had, and that the people he knows would agree as well if they had me as a workshop leader. This would only mean that the course has indeed made a difference.
- F.** The course is very relaxed but was helpful in teaching facilitators new teaching methods.
- G.** I really liked the course and thought that it helped me to become a better tutor. I think that the entire experience was very valuable. The course definitely gave me more confidence in relating to others in an authoritarian type role.
- H.** [No Response]
- I.** I really enjoyed this course because it really made me think. It forced me to think about how others think and learn and this is not something I thought about before taking this course.
- J.** The course was very helpful as well as fun. I tried to use a lot of the things we learned in workshop, and I believe workshop went a lot smoother this semester as a result of this course. I would definitely recommend it to all peer leaders.
- K.** Overall, I learned a lot in this course that will not only help me in chem. Workshop but in many aspects of my other classes and my career.
- L.** I found this course very useful and I have found myself applying it to not only the tutoring course but also to my other courses this semester. I found myself asking questions not just of others but of myself, and I have gained a confidence in my own opinions. This was definitely worthwhile taking.
- M.** It really helped me re-evaluate myself as a tutor, and helped me make small changes that make a big difference.
- N.** This course helped with my tutor experience. I felt that there were things I learned or topics discussed which I could apply to tutoring.
- O.** I am interested in pursuing a career in science education, and this course was invaluable for me. I found the material presented to be very interesting and definitely think this course should be a requirement for workshop leaders. It was very interesting to analyze different scenarios that can occur in workshops as well. I can't wait to try out many of the new techniques that I learned on my workshop students next semester!
- P.** The course proved to be a very valuable asset to my tutoring experience.
- Q.** I really liked the course. I thought that I really improved as a workshop leader this semester. Professor White was a good teacher and made the material interesting
- R.** The course was helpful in learning ways to handle common situations that come up during the workshop sessions. I thought it was effective and all facilitators should have to take it if possible.
- S.** Very helpful in reflecting upon how I was tutoring.
- T.** This course was great, I wish we could have met more often. It really opened my eyes to teaching.

26. In an informative sentence or two, describe or characterize the *Tutorial Methods of Instruction* course to someone who might consider taking the course, e.g. What is the essence of this course?

- A. The tutorial Methods of Instruction course improves the tutoring experience by extracting more teaching ability from tutoring instructors without needing long-winded explanations to students.
- B. This is a course that emphasizes learning not only from an in-dept Pedagogical standpoint, but also through collaboration with other students and a mentor (Dr. White) to ensure that maximum benefit in teaching effectiveness can be derived by students in the span of a semester (and it does a good job at that!)
- C. The course teaches you how to run a diverse and dynamic group, as well as how to provide the spirit for thinking and discussion, instead of providing answers.
- D. The class emphasizes the importance of peer-learning and discusses ways to make an effective learning environment.
- E. I would say that Tutorial Methods of Instruction enhances the ideas you currently have as a tutor, using theories of learning and case studies to propel tutors to have their students critically think and learn the material, freeing themselves from misconceptions and other barriers that inhibit understanding.
- F. The course will help to make you a better peer facilitator and even if you are not involved in PBL, it will assist in group leadership skills.
- G. The tutor methods class goes through all of the important aspects of being an effective tutor. It really helps to give you confidence in relating to others.
- H. To provide PBL/PLTL tutors with more tools and a more thorough understanding of one's role as a tutor.
- I. This essence of this course is to learn about interactive learning, and how one properly facilitates it. This course basically taught peer facilitators ho to manage a classroom successfully as well as teach students the material they learned in lecture in a manner that would capture their interest and allow them to interact with each other to learn it better.
- J. This course teaches general ways in which to handle a class and more effective ways to communicate information.
- K. This course is one in which you learn how to teach students how to learn. It helps in bettering you as a tutor but also as a student.
- L. [No Response]
- M. This course will help you understand the best ways to tutor small groups. It will give you tips and pointers for how you may become a better facilitator.
- N. The Tutorial Methods of Instruction course is designed to be an open forum for current tutors to learn from each other, Dr. White, and material presented in class how to be better tutors. It is a class for motivated tutors who wish to improve their skills so they may better serve the groups they are working with.
- O. As a workshop leader, you will need to understand how students learn, how they relate to one another, and how you can assist them in becoming more interested in and knowledgeable about a particular subject. In Dr. White's Tutorial Methods class, you will examine various issues that arise in workshops and learn about ways to engage your students in fun and interactive ways. Take this very useful course and your students will definitely thank you for it!
- P. The essence of this course is to make tutors aware of the different ways students learn and to provide tutors with the tools to be effective leaders.
- Q. The Tutorial Methods of Instruction course is about the different aspects of being an effective workshop leader. The course emphasizes different techniques that can be

implemented in the workshop section, possible problems that can arise (and how to handle them), and the importance of group learning.

- R.** This course teaches you how to be an effective facilitator by encouraging the group members to figure out their questions among themselves. It exposes you to different learning styles and classroom situations.
- S.** An examination of what and how people learn, and learning the best way to teach to each person and mediate groups dynamics.
- T.** Basically this course is about learning how to best facilitate the learning of others. We covered a wide range of topics from how people learn to common misconceptions.