



Student Centered Teaching Techniques

AFC ICCTL

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What are you here for?

Responsibility for Learning

- Professor
 - You spend hours preparing
 - In control
 - Prepare the course
- Student
 - Show up
 - No responsibility
 - Prepare little or nothing

Responsibility for Learning

- Student
 - Spend hours preparing
 - In charge
 - Plan the material
- Professor
 - Show up
 - Different responsibility
 - Different preparation

If The Professor Takes
Responsibility...

If The Professor Takes Responsibility...

- The students are:
 - Passive
- The students may not:
 - Gain confidence in their ability to learn
 - Learn to identify important topics
 - Learn to think about their learning
 - Make decisions about their learning

If the Student Does...

If the Student Does...

- Can learn to take some responsibility
- Make decisions and learn from them in a safe place
- Learn to pick out what is important
- Become more confident in their decisions
- Become more informed about how they learn

Can you trust your students to take responsibility for their own learning?

- It depends...on them and on you
 - Student population
 - Teaching style
 - Topics
 - Your risk taking comfort
 - Fear

How Do You Start?

- Small
- Be flexible – what is the worst that could happen?
- Hand over some control
- Sometimes admit you may not know everything

Let The Students

- Make decisions about:
 - Use of time in class
 - The assignments
 - The environment
 - Grading

Choices

- One big assignment or 3 smaller ones
- Exam - a take home or in class
- Do they want quizzes?
- What do they want to learn?
- How do they want to learn?

Course Assessment

Ask about the course – not the content
but the course itself

- What has worked so far?
- What has been helpful?
- Likes?
- Dislikes?
- Ask and they know you are interested

Students

- Give them a topic to teach - back them up with information from you if needed
- Let them create the study guide
- Ask them how or if some assignments should be scored
- Allow them resubmits

Exams

- What is the purpose of our teaching and what is an exam?

Exams

- Let them take an exam with a partner (but do not tell them ahead of time)
- Let them take the exam once, then give them a chance immediately afterwards to take it again with their notes or with a classmate - $\frac{1}{2}$ score from the first try, $\frac{1}{2}$ from the second

Resources

- Suskie, L. (2004). *Assessing student learning*. Bolton, MA: Anker Publishing Company, Inc.
- Walvoord, B. E. (2004). *Assessment clear and simple*. San Francisco: Jossey- Bass.
- Weimer, M. (2002). *Learner-centered teaching*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.