Teaching Required Courses: Challenges and Opportunities

a faculty workshop co-sponsored by the Critical Thinking Program and CELT

TUESDAY MAY 12, 2009
NOON UNTIL 2:30 PM

Many courses at Tufts are taken by students to fulfill requirements. We have distribution requirements and foundational requirements, and each department requires certain courses to be taken to complete a major. There are a number of issues that arise when a significant portion of a class is taking a course primarily to fulfill a requirement. Instructors are challenged in special ways when teaching such courses. Students may not be motivated to do their best work or they may not initially find the subject inherently interesting. However, these courses also present opportunities for students to be surprised by interests or talents they might not have otherwise discovered.

In this session, we will discuss the pedagogical challenges associated with teaching courses students take to fulfill requirements—distribution, foundational and departmental. We will also explore ways to capitalize on the opportunity to excite students to learn about subjects they might consider to be outside of their areas of interest or talent.

rsvp to Susan Russinoff
by
April 22, 2009
x75795 or susan.russinoff@tufts.edu
When you respond, please indicate your department and what required course(s) you teach.
Lunch will be served