CIS 610 Teaching Effectiveness
Fall 2011  Week 2

Caveat: These summary notes are posted to provide an overview of class topics and discussions. The nature of real-time, face-to-face interaction precludes complete replication outside of the original setting; class notes posted at this web site are general outlines rather than complete transcripts of classroom events.

Agenda -

Check in
Logistics
Topic – Is teaching just common sense?
Break
Topic – In the classroom – leading a lab or discussion

Handout -
*General Cultural Differences in Academic Expectations*

**Topic – Is teaching just common sense?**

There are particular skills associated with teaching – see syllabus or textbook chapter headings, for example.

This class provides time, materials, group experience to focus on the acquisition and improvement of teaching skills in an effective, efficient, and enjoyable manner, and to provide a platform for a process of continuing improvement of your teaching skills.

**Topic – In the classroom – leading a lab or discussion**

Advice from former gtfs:

“If you are going over a problem, solve it beforehand (and don’t leave your notes at home)!”

“I wish I had an idea of questions that would come up in class. I wish I had taken time to watch somebody else teaching the topic I was going to teach.”
Breaking the task down:

(1) Organization and coordination

Be familiar with class materials, what topics will be covered in lab, etc. Check in with the class instructor and other course gts. Some instructors will have something specific for you, others will not.

(2) Preparation

- Visit the classroom and check available equipment.
- Have a backup plan for non-working equipment and other problems.
- Review the lab outline and run through any problems you will be covering.
- Try for a student/beginner perspective.
- Think of helpful examples, extra problems, leading questions.
- Read the book the students are reading.
- Anticipate questions students might have, and think of helpful responses.
- Prepare written materials, to emphasize or enhance spoken presentation.
- Look ahead to next week’s material to provide a context for current material.
- Think about student participation.
- Review student names.
- Practice your presentation.

[We will start here next week.]

(3) In the classroom – where your good preparation will pay off.
(4) Issues