

## A Practical Guide to Designing Better Classes

### **3Rs of Education: Relationships, Resilience and Reflection**

Smart is the ability to change your mind

Thinking, Design and Integration are now more important

**Technology** is a tool, not a strategy

Learning is about **change**

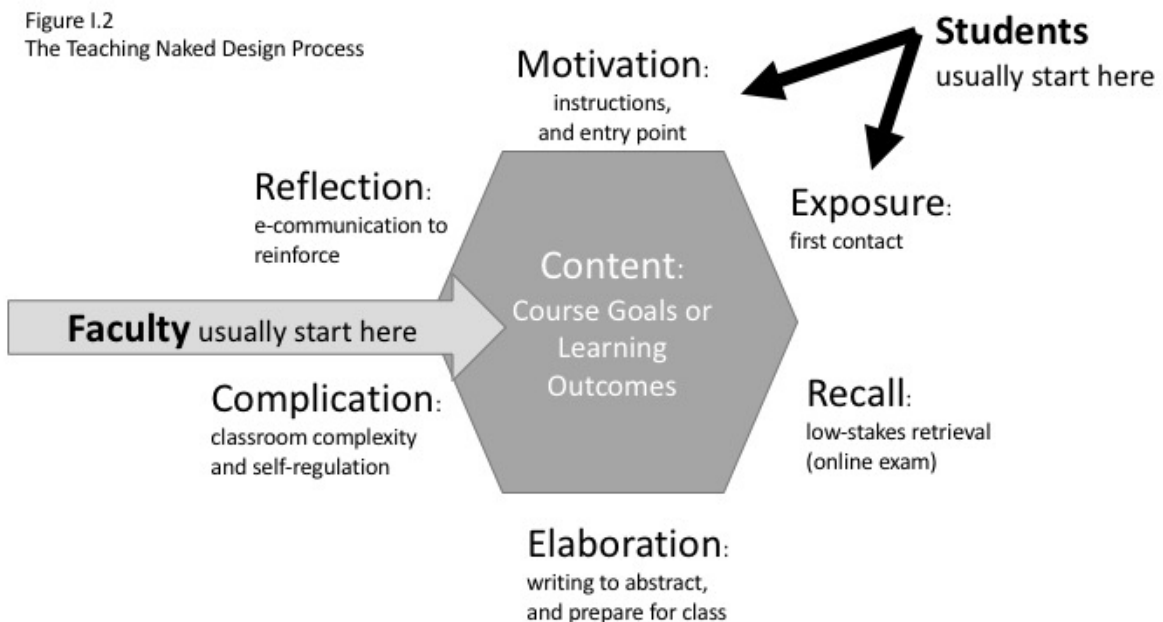
### **The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning**

*Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning.* (Brown, Roediger & McDaniel)

Exposure, rereading, highlighting and massed practice = false fluency NOT learning)

- **Concrete and Personal** (matters to me, examples)
- **Knowledge is Necessary** (but not sufficient)
- **Retrieval and Self-Testing** (online exams, games)
- **Elaboration** (connections, analogies, writing)
- **Abstract** (extracting rules, larger context, mental models)
- **Failure** (add difficulty, attempts before solutions, feedback)
- **Interleaving** (varied practice, space out practice)

### **Teaching Naked Design Process**

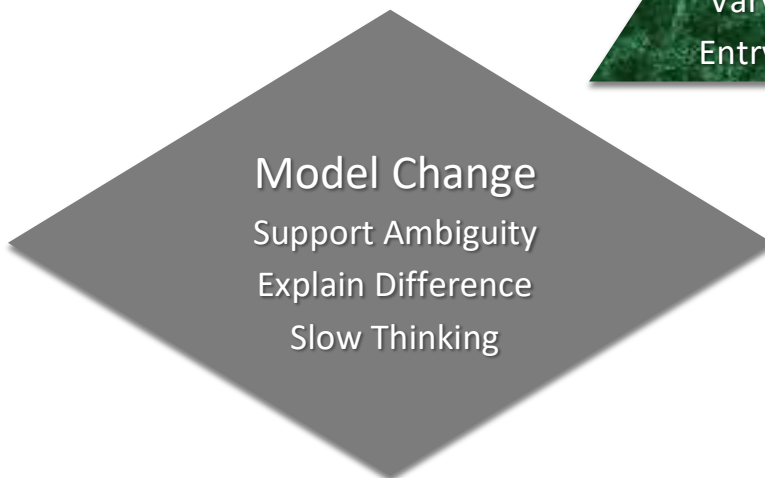
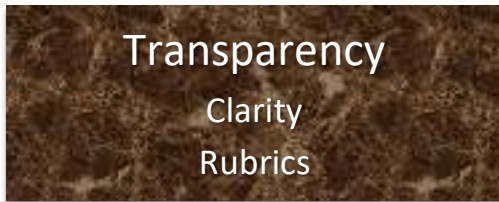


## Targeted Universalism

John A. Powell (2008).

Post-Racialism or Targeted Universalism Denver University Law Review, 86, p. 785-806

## Good Teaching is Inclusive Teaching



## Learning Outcomes (and why they matter)

- write a learning outcome and design a module

**Remembering** (know, define, repeat, describe, identify, recall, list, tell, locate match)

**Understanding** (comprehend, classify, convert, explain, summarize, predict, discuss, compare)

**Applying** (demonstrate, modify, arrange, solve, relate, apply, examine, classify, illustrate)

**Analyzing** (infer, estimate, order, separate, subdivide, distinguish, contrast, categorize)

**Evaluating** (critique, justify, discriminate, support, conclude, judge, verify, assess, argue)

**Creating** (synthesize, design, formulate, revise, construct, compose, invent, imagine, propose)

*(Bloom, B.S., Taxonomy of Educational Objectives, Handbook I: The Cognitive Domain. New York: David McKay Co Inc. 1956.) Taxonomy revised by Lorin Anderson. Designed for higher education, it is now pervasive in almost all curriculum design—even dog trainers use this.)*

## Syllabus

Tone and Transparency Matter

See Template

eCommunication Policy

- The best way to contact me is: \_\_\_\_\_ (email, FB, Google+, LinkedIn)
- I will respond to e-mail (or FB chat, messages etc.) within \_\_\_\_\_ hours, except on \_\_\_ or between \_\_\_\_\_ (9pm and 9am etc.)
- I am online (FB/Skype/Twitter) \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ days and also available for \_\_\_\_\_
- If you want an individual (physical/Skype/chat) appointment \_\_\_\_\_ me
- I accept/do not accept Skype/Facebook/LinkedIn friend requests (until graduation).

## **Backchannels in F2F Classrooms**

Need	Sample Uses	Tools
<b>Chat or Q&amp;A</b>	Share resources Ask question Respond to prompts Clarify Comment	GoSoapBox.com Twitter or Google Slides Mentimeter (Q&A type slide) Tricider Teams/Zoom Chat BackChannelChat.com
<b>Word clouds &amp; Open-ended responses</b>	Lists of ideas Unclear concepts Rephrase an idea Examples or Applications	Mentimeter (word cloud, open-ended) AnswerGarden Padlet (visual board)
<b>Voting, Polling &amp; Quizzes</b>	Discover baseline Answer questions Check understanding	Mentimeter Poll Everywhere Socrative Google Forms Tricider GoSoapBox (“confusion barometer”)
<b>Visual, Brainstorming or Jamming</b>	Collect & connect ideas Share images Play with concepts	Padlet.com Mural.co Jamboard.google.com

## **Rubrics**

See Template

## **Online Content and First Exposure**

- identify discipline-specific online content or organize a podcast

### **1. Finding Tools and Content in Your Discipline**

- Lectures & Demos: utubersity, iTunesU, Khan, YouTube, OpenYale, MITOpen
- Other Content: Merlot.org, Google, Wikipedia, universities, governments
- Courses: Udacity, UoPeople, Coursera, EdX, OpenYale, MITOpen

### **2. Podcasts**

- Videos of lectures are a type of podcast
- Real podcasts are better: *teach to the many, not to the middle.*
  - use chapters: organize and give students more control
  - time is no longer an issue
  - use multiple, redundant and alternative examples
  - add something for advanced students (the others can skip)
  - recycle
- Start Small

### **3. Games**

- New Games
- Free Games: Merlot, SeriousGames, EducationArcade, iTunes (apps) GameScene, TheProblemSite, FreeOnlineGames, GameNode, MiniClip

## **Instructions and Entry Point**

- find an appropriate entry point and write conditional instructions

### **1. Motivating Reading**

- Consider the length of reading assignments in relation to your learning outcomes.
- Tell students *why* they are reading in advance.
- Analyze the opening *before* you assign the reading.
- Tell students in advance why the ending is important.
- Email students between classes about specific passages.
- Encourage students along the way using twitter or email.
- Require students to reflect on the entire reading in writing before class
- Give a reading quiz before every class
- Structure class activities or assessment to reward those who did all of the reading.
- Avoid punitive measures.
- Coordinate courses across the curriculum.

## 2. Using Summary Sites

- Know and understand the competition: sparknotes, Wikipedia, CliffsNotes, PinkMonkey, gradesaver, enotes, bibliomania.
- Convince students to read just a few chapters first.
- Ask students to read the summary first and discuss how it changes the experience.
- Ask students to compare summary sites.
- Make your assignment more about style or character than plot.
- Ask an unusual question (that won't be answered by the summary)

## 3. Entry Point

- **Start with what matters to students,**  
then connect with what matters to you
- **Motivation and Contemplation**  
“Find something interesting to you...”  
“Look for different perspectives...”  
“Stop, linger, and imagine...”

## 4. Conditional Instructions -- Teach with uncertainty

- This could be the best solution, vs. This is the best solution
- How could you design a bra that only opens if you are in love? vs. Could you?
- What would be required for a nasal contraceptive to work? vs. Is it possible?
- Usually you want the patient lying down, vs. First, get the patient to lie down.
- The current theory is... vs. This is...

## Online Exams to Improve Student Preparation for Class

- formulate sample test questions using Bloom levels
- Create more class time
- Use your LMS
- Improve your preparation
- JiTT

Question Format:

### Question 1 (Analysis Level)

The following are all true statements.

Which are most likely to be used by Dems/Repubs to support government policy?

Check all that apply. Partial credit is avail

- Government spending creates jobs.
- Tax cuts stimulate job creation.
- Uncertainty is bad for business
- A large debt can hurt the economy.
- Government spending cuts can hurt the economy.

Which are fact, opinion or judgement?  
Which are most relevant in arguing for Y?  
Which are most relevant in arguing against Y?

## **Better Multiple Choice Exams** with **Bloom Levels**

KNOWLEDGE (recall and recognition)

- Which of the following are important theories of X?
- Identify which of the following are symptoms of X?

COMPREHENSION (understanding examples, meaning, and extrapolating)

- Which of the following is an example of X?
- Which of these are summaries of X?

APPLICATIONS (organize or solve with new situations or terms)

- Which of the following Y might be most useful to X?
- What would be the best way to improve X?

ANALYSIS (breaking apart, compare and contrast, generalizing)

- Which of the following statements from article X are fact/opinion?
- Which of the following facts (all true) are most relevant for the argument X?

SYNTHESIS (combining elements into a new patterns)

- Which of the following statements about X (all true) would be best evidence in SUPPORTING the argument Y?
- Which of the following are restatements of the thesis in article X from a person who disagrees?
- Which of the following develop the thesis of X further?

EVALUATION (presenting and defending judgments)

- Which of the following statements about X (all true) would be best evidence in REFUTING the argument Y? (Same set of answers to chose from.)
- Which of the following represents the strongest argument for why...?
- Which critique of X is most compelling?

## Assignments

- create an assignment as class preparation

**Motivation:** **why** are we doing this? (goal & how it connects to learning outcomes)

**Clarity:** around **expectations** (how long & how should this time be divided?)

**Checklists:** what are the **parts**? (do I think, research, write, draft, edit?)

**Rubrics:** share **in advance** (what matters and is most valuable)

**Spacing** and Interleaving: (can I do this all in one sitting?)

**Relevance:** (can I enhance motivation by choosing better examples?)

### 1. Types of Assignments

Practice - problem sets

Writing - more focused prompts

Prepare for something -

Make a list -

Find something -

Analyze something -

Case Study -

### 2. Writing to Process and Prepare for Discussion.

- Index cards: Position Papers, Favorite Quote, Biggest Hole, Most Powerful
- Bring essays to class and have students respond in writing to each other.

### 3. Better Prompts

- What does the text say?
- How do you/others interpret this text?
- What problem might there be with this method/theory?
- What is the main argument the text is making?
- What is the most important evidence for this argument?
- What is the main bias or assumption of the author?
- How do you understand this text?
- How does this text do a good or poor job of conveying its message?
- Why is this passage important?
- Why is this passage disturbing?

### 4. Peer-Review Writing

- Tell students it will be read by other *students*.
- Share essays online before class on a discussion board.
- Peer-Review Rubrics
- Calibrated Peer Review (CPR)
- Inkshedding

## Active Classrooms

- develop class activities as extensions and applications

**EXAMPLE:** Bring to class a pitch for a meeting in New York. Then in class, surprise:

### 1. Alter conditions

- the meeting has been moved to Tokyo
- the client has changed the request

### 2. Change data

- the product failed a recent test
- the demographic data you used was flawed

### 3. Extend conditions

- the marketing person is sick: you're on

### 4. Complicate

- your competition has just released a better technology/product

### 5. Use in activity

- 10-20 minutes to do new research and make the changes.
- make presentations, submit revised plans or write about the change process.

### 6. Use in discussion

### 7. Reframe the problem

- how might you have prepared differently?

## Other forms of interaction (no-tech)

- Active Learning to Motivate Change
- Role Playing: Reacting to the Past: <http://reacting.barnard.edu/>
- Collaborative Learning
- Writing and Editing
- Reading
- Problem Solving
- Reflection
- Studios or Labs

## Primary Sources Assignments

- Controversy
- Error Regression
- How Does it Work?
- Needle in the Haystack
- The Creative Process



## **Better Discussions**

Thinking with others  
Group polarization

Clarify good student discussion behaviors  
--comments that introduce substantive points  
--comments that deepen the discussion  
Structure (be flexible)  
Grading (be creative)  
Practice (student and faculty)  
--Discourse on Pizza (online)

- **Anonymous Polls First (like a jury)**
- **Prepare Opening Statements (or write first )**
- **Neutral and Two-Sided Questions**
  - When private beliefs are at stake, you dig in
  - “How many different explanations can you...”
  - “Can you think of both an example and a counter-example?”
- **Build Common Purpose/Problems/Goals**
  - Groups build trust over time
  - Encourage compliments
  - Explain Relevance
- **Articulate Academic Process**
  - Use a Rubric
  - Engage in Meta-Analysis of the Discussion
  - Create Ambiguity
  - Assign Roles (Evidence Watchdog)
  - Structured networks - Shield identities
- **Diverse Groups & Encourage Outliers**
- **Clear Learning Outcomes**
  - find the right entry point
  - enhance intellectual curiosity
  - confront contradictions
  - challenge beliefs
  - deepen investment in the material
  - reflect on the significance of material
  - connect information across disciplines
  - demonstrate the human dimension
- **Preparation (student and faculty)**
  - provide in advance:
    - model of good behaviors
    - learning outcomes
    - reading guide and questions
  - ensure student preparation
  - prepare a short list of different types of questions

## **Study Scaffolding** <https://teachingnaked.com/study-smarter/>

- customize study habits and time on task framework
- see templates

### **Study Smarter: Part 1**

**Reflect:** How much time did you need to get the grade you want?

**Choose Strategies:** Which resources and activities will be most useful

**Plan & Implementation:** What will you do when and where?

### **Study Smarter: Part 2**

**Reflect:** What did you actually do?

**Adjust:** What worked the best?

**Revise Your Plan:** What will you do differently?

## **Cognitive Wrappers**

- customize a cognitive wrapper (see template)

**Reflect**

**Compare**

**Adjust**

## **More Inclusive Teaching**

### **Acknowledgement and Self-Awareness**

Your accent and “common sense”

Demonstrate your own failings

Set expectations for diverse viewpoints (class + syllabus)

### **Demonstrate Caring and Support**

Acknowledge differences

Learn names and pronouns (pre-class survey)

Articulate difficulty

### **Transparency**

Structure, clarity, scaffolding, checklists

Rubrics make visible your own assumptions, biases and expectations

### **Content**

Diversify your content and perspectives

### **Diversify Examples and Analogies**

Vary names, problems and analogies

### **Different Questions**

What assumptions led to this discovery?

Who benefited?

Who is missing and why?

## Highlight scholarly achievements of minorities

Who else can you highlight?

## Ask for early and specific feedback

# Inclusive Teaching & Difficult Issues

## 1. Develop Trust

**Listen First:** Listen before you speak and question your own assumptions.

**Talk Straight:** Be honest and tell the truth. Use simple language.

**Demonstrate Respect:** Show you care for others genuinely.

**Create Transparency:** Be honest, open and authentic.

**Right Wrongs:** Apologize quickly and make restitution.

**Give Credit:** Be loyal to the absent.

**Hold Yourself Accountable First:** Take responsibility.

**Extend Trust:** Don't withhold trust because there is risk involved

(Adapted from The Thirteen Behaviors of a High Trust Leader in Stephen Covey from The Speed of Trust)

## 2. Start with How

Leonid Rozenblit & Frank Keil (2002). The Illusion of Explanatory Depth

## 3. Articulate the Underlying Tension

Distinguish between **problems** (to solve) & **tensions** (to manage)

Innovation & Efficiency

Safety & Cost

Control & Freedom

Change & Stability

Individual & Collective

Liberty & Justice

Freedom & Equality

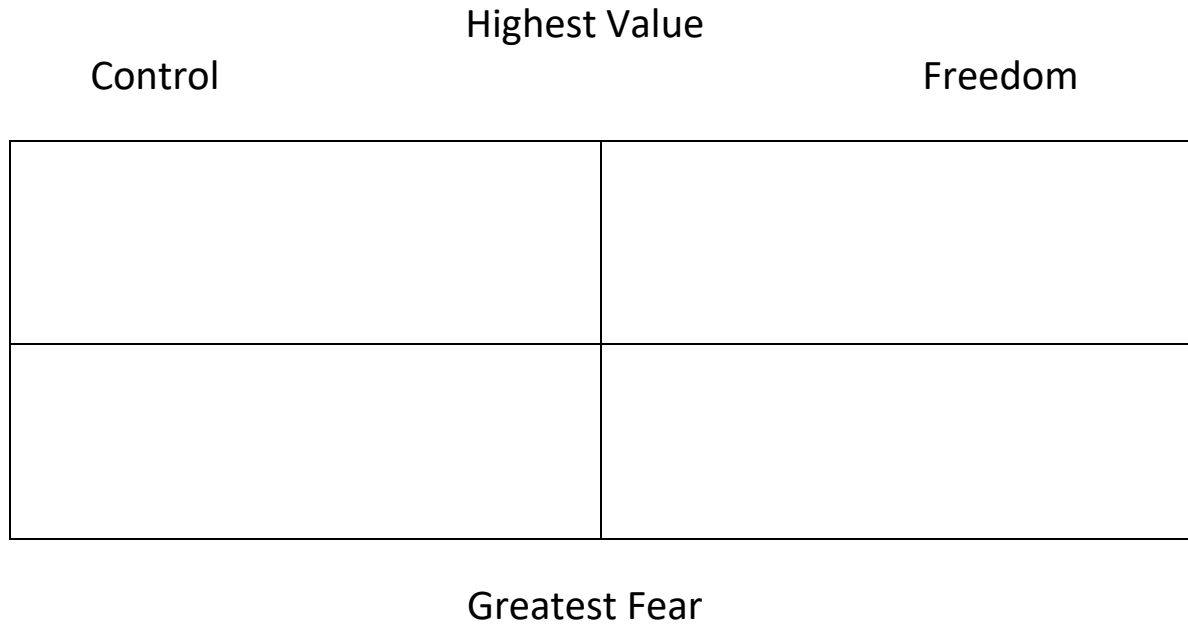
Problems to solve have endpoints and choices.

Tensions are not choices.

Multiple solutions, No right/wrong; No endpoint: Yes/Yes.

Choosing sets up the pendulum.

## Polarity Map



### 4. Build Bridges and Find Shared Values

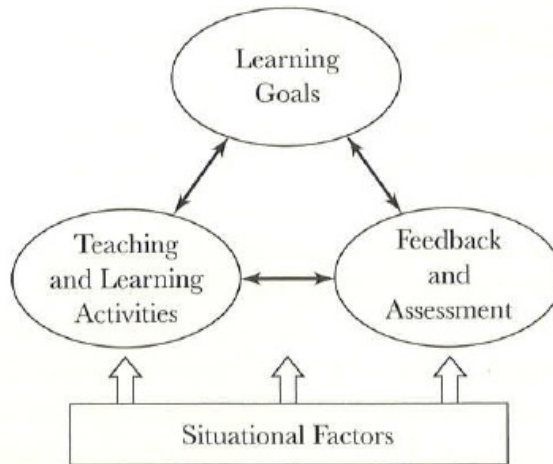
Start by acknowledging your opponent's greatest fears (the downside of your preference).

Invite others to hold complexity and tolerance for ambiguity.

## Integrated Course Design

- Edit and reduce content: what do you want students to remember in five years?
- Integration is more important than volume of content.
- Course design integrates goals, activities and assessment.

**FIGURE 3.1. KEY COMPONENTS OF INTEGRATED COURSE DESIGN.**



- Sequence should support learning goals.
- Technology expands the possibilities for what happens where.
- Class time is expensive and precious: put the most difficult learning there
- When and where is the best first contact and can you facilitate the entry point?
- When are opportunities to deepen learning or provide feedback?

## **Design a Learning Module**

Before Class		In-Between		In-Between	
	In Class		In Class		In Class

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**Teaching Naked:** *How Removing Technology from your College Classroom will Improve Student Learning* (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012). AAC&U Ness Award 2013

**Teaching Naked Techniques:** *A Practical Guide to Designing Better Classes* with C. Edward Watson (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2017).

**Teaching Change:** *How to Develop Independent Thinkers Using Relationships, Resilience, and Reflection* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2021) **NEW!**