

2013-05-15

# Learning to Dance Well Together: Shared/Team Teaching in Higher Education

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1st Annual Collaborating for Learning Conference, May, 15-16, 2013, University of Calgary,  
Calgary, Alberta.

<http://hdl.handle.net/1880/49646>

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# Learning to Dance Well Together: Shared/Team Teaching in Higher Education



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May 15, 2013

**What do you mean  
by the terms  
co-teaching  
or  
collaborative teaching  
or  
team teaching?**



# Co-teaching...Collaborative Teaching... Team Teaching

- Co-teaching is defined as “two or more individuals who come together in a collaborative relationship for the purpose of shared work...for the outcome of achieving what none could have done alone” (Wenzlaff et al., 2002, p. 14).

**What is your experience  
with co-teaching?**

**How has it influenced your  
teaching and student learning?**



# Co-teaching Strategies

- One Teach, One Observe
- One Teach, One Drift
- Station Teaching
- Parallel Teaching
- Supplemental Teaching
- Alternative (Differentiated) Teaching
- Team Teaching

(Bacharach, Heck & Dahlberg, 2008, p. 11)

# K-12 vs. Higher Education

- Common to find co-teaching in K-12
- Common to find co-research in higher education
- Not so common to find co-teaching in higher education.

# In Higher Education

- Ferguson and Wilson (2011) stated
  - faculty members collaborate on research, but not in teaching.
  - benefit of co-teaching supports the potential of a strong learning community for students and instructors, as well as benefitting students both pedagogically and professionally



# Concept Does Not Align With Practice

- Given this lack of experience and modeling in higher education, co-teaching can be something that is only conceptually addressed.
- The “lack of experience with co-teaching causes a misalignment between professors’ beliefs about its positive impact and their personal instructional practices which result in beginning teachers entering a classroom with only a conceptual understanding of what it means to co-teach” (Ferguson & Wilson, 2011, p. 53).

# **From the Panel**

**How is co-teaching/team  
teaching embodied in practice  
in higher education?**

# Co-Teaching a Large Lecture

# Co-teaching in Nursing Class

- Development and delivery of the course is completed collaboratively
- Communication is essential
- Transparency of co-teaching for students
- We respect one another area of expertise and teaching style/approach/pedagogical philosophy
- Humor is essential

# Co-teaching in an Online Environment

- Synchronous and Asynchronous communication
- Before
  - Time planning
- During
  - Ongoing communication
  - Determining how the work is shared and who will take the lead on various components
- After
  - Debrief of the process and experience
  - Review of student reflections and feedback

**What has worked in your  
teaming approach?**

**Why did it work?**

# Building Supportive Relationships

- Paying attention to the whole person
- Building in social time
- Dialogue and willingness to talk about mistakes
- Readiness to change course



**What are some assumptions we may have about co-teaching or shared teaching that need to be addressed if the experience is to be successful?**



**What is required to be successful collaborators when working in a co-teaching relationship?**

# Successful Collaborators in a Co-teaching Relationship

- Considerations for co-teachers
  - Recognizing and trusting the other's expertise
  - Mutual respect
  - Recognizing collaboration as a learning process
  - Humour
- Institutional considerations
  - Provision of time for knowledge-building and collaboration
  - Pairing individuals with compatible approaches
  - Acknowledgement of collaboration as a learning process

**What key strategies are required to  
develop a healthy co-teaching  
rapport?**

# Strategies in Developing a Healthy Co-teaching Rapport

- Daily communication
- Listening and dialogue
- Recognizing the positive aspects of collaboration (two brains!)



# Shared Workload

- Enumerating and dividing up tasks
- Revisiting task list regularly



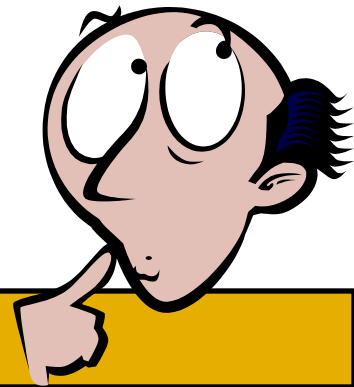
# Co-Producing Knowledge

- Finding a place for the other's expertise
- Alternating between individual and collaborative preparation time

# Making Room for Multiple Viewpoints and Pedagogical Styles

- Advanced preparation
- Clearly delineating teaching tasks
- While co-teaching:
  - Sticking to agreed-upon time allotments during teaching
  - Developing a rapport that allows for flexibility

**What other strategies or recommendations would you provide to help foster successful co-teaching?**





# Questions and/or Comments



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# References

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