

Teaching Sensitive Topics with Technology in Mind, Wed Nov 16 5:00-6:20p, Pelican, Riverside Complex

## Teaching Sensitive Topics with Technology in Mind

In an era where technology is being integrated into pedagogical practices more frequently and for a variety of reasons, this roundtable's purpose is to discuss when, why, and how we use technology in the classroom when teaching sensitive topics (i.e. intimate partner violence, sexual assault, victimology, etc.). We will discuss whether or how technology can be used to effectively open discussion and teach about sensitive topics. Since many universities are encouraging the creation of online courses, we will also discuss the methods and implications of teaching sensitive topics in an online environment.

Chair: Melencia Johnson

Susan Kunkle (attachment-Teaching Sensitive Topics in a Virtual Classroom Using Experiential Methods)

Rebecca Stone

Ellen Cohn

Stephanie Whitehead

Sylviana Ituarte

Talisa Carter

### **Classes Taught by Attendees**

Policing; Crime and Pop Culture; Class, Race, Gender and Crime; Introduction to Women's Studies; Women and Crime and Justice, Youth in the Justice System, Justice Administration, LGBTQ studies, History of CJ System, Victimology, Criminological Theory, Juvenile Delinquency, Girls Delinquency

### **Tools**

Poll Everywhere: use to live poll students in class. Can be integrated into PowerPoint.

<https://www.polleverywhere.com/>

Camtasia: use for online classes to voice over PowerPoint and integrate quizzes into the lecture. <https://www.techsmith.com/>

Teamviewer: used to remote access students' computers. <https://www.teamviewer.com/en/>

Remind.com: used to text students. Teachers can pre-program text messages. Students choose whether message comes to cell phone or email. <https://www.remind.com/>

### **Techniques/Exercises**

Videos: Use videos to introduce a topic.

- "What would you do?" <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwdo8-3UrfZ9scHPI0m4Ysg>

Discussion Groups

- Use small group discussion (online and in person) that builds to larger class discussion (think, pair, share).

- Meme Wars: Post a discussion question that asks students opinion on a subject. Students respond with a meme that mirrors their opinion.
- Small group learning pods

#### Mini Exercises

##### Experiential Learning

- Students go out in the community to work with organizations that mirror course topics.

##### Start Here Message (online class)

- This message would explain how students navigate the course and ground rules for completing assignments.

##### Clearly Indicate Class Topics on the Syllabus

- No usage of trigger warnings since the luxury is not usually afforded in the “real world”

##### Student Forum (online class)

- A student forum where students can ask each other questions that are not graded.

##### Do not encourage disclosure

- With new Title IX regulations, its best to provide external resources to the class that relate to sensitive topics.

#### **Negatives teaching sensitive topics in online environment**

Tone is not best conveyed in text.

Students don't create an emotional connection to the professor as easily.

#### **Positives teaching sensitive topics in online environment**

Students tend to censor themselves more online since they recognize their text is on record.

#### **Classroom Etiquette**

Explain classroom as a “safeish” space. A safe space indicates students' confidentiality and anonymity may be protected and there may be no secondary trauma.

Have students create their own rules for discussion.