

Reflective Teaching Portfolio  
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TS-111 Fundamentals of Textiles  
TS-131 Textile Principles for Fashion Designers  
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## **Teaching Philosophy**

My teaching philosophy is to be able to transmit information, develop critical thinking skills, and apply the gained knowledge in real-world settings. As an adjunct instructor for an introductory textile course for fashion design and fashion merchandising majors, it is my ultimate goal to impart both passion and encouragement for life-long learning for textiles to my students. Textiles are intrinsic to everyday life that affects us both culturally, environmentally, socially, and economically. Our first knowledge of textiles is intuitive due to our life's experiences. Bringing textiles in a formalized context based on experiences will allow students to have a different relationship and expanded knowledge for textiles.

One of my main objectives is to ensure students have hands-on experience in a variety of textiles. It is our responsibility to teach the course wherein the students get the opportunity to analyze a material: pull apart, look deeply, and identify its making process. Allowing the students the opportunity to see first hand how a material is made into fabric through lectures, active participation through dialogue and discussions, and demonstrations create engagement and retained learning. Also, assignments are given where the students get to make their own materials to have a better understanding of the textile processes. It is my belief that the opportunity to make their own materials gives them a form of artistic expression which allows a collaborative approach in their learning. Creating an atmosphere of mentoring in their learning also fosters community and partnership.

## **Observing a Master Teacher**

I have had the opportunity to study under Master Teachers during my undergraduate and graduate studies. I was tutored by one during my graduate studies and advised by another while writing my dissertation. What I found common in all of them is that they explained a complex theory with simplicity and practicality creating further interest for one to learn. Their perspective is engaging which gives one the confidence to be able to tackle the work at hand. One of the key elements that all of these master teachers possess is that they give you enough background information on an unfamiliar subject allowing one to have a stronger understanding of the subject matter.

My overall experience as an undergraduate student of Textile Design was one of being an apprentice instead of a student being taught by a master of their craft. Although the various classes had strong theories taught, it was the teacher's responsibility to ensure a practical side

was applied and conducted in their classes. This allowed one to ask questions while envisioning new methods in problem-solving. It is an empowering way of learning, making one hone their skills. This method of learning was a great discipline that I carried through my professional career.

It is my belief that we are surrounded by master teachers if one engages, listens and focuses on who is teaching. These master teachers teach with commitment and dedication who see your needs, your abilities as well as your capability for achievement. With these experiences, it is my intention to ensure the success of each of my students to the best of my ability.

### **Example of a Successful Lesson**

My most successful lesson was when students were asked to bring examples of garments that they will present based on the chapter to be discussed in class. By giving them guidelines and questions that are required for their presentation, the class discussion became interactive and collaborative making the theory of the chapter easily understood. The student became engaged with one another making my role more of a facilitator during the discussion. As the students exchanged ideas during the discussion, they learned from each other while expounding on the topic discussed.

Another successful lesson was a demonstration conducted in the laboratory or in-class demonstration prior to the lecture. A demonstration creates interest in students making the technical information easier to comprehend. The value of seeing the actual processes first hand generates clear interest amongst the students. I know first hand that many of my past students have been transformed into taking more studies in textiles after seeing these demonstrations.

### **Example of an Unsuccessful Lesson**

An unsuccessful lesson was when I taught a class and used another professor's syllabus and powerpoints. By using another professor's materials, it was difficult to create my style from someone else's work in spite of familiarity with the subject matter. Course preparation is necessary especially if you are assigned a new course to teach. It is best to use your own material and slides as it will ensure that you create excitement and enthusiasm in teaching the class.

### **Introducing Technology into the Classroom**

After teaching in class for the first six weeks during the Spring 2020 semester, we had to move into remote teaching as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is my first time to teach remotely. I came to teach at FIT starting Fall 2016 and with little knowledge on using technology, I took the initiative to learn Blackboard LMS by attending CET training, connecting with the SUNY Help Desk as well as working with a colleague in the department. It was difficult in the beginning but it helped me tremendously in my first semester of teaching. I found that

through the years of teaching, being versed in Blackboard allowed me to house all teaching tools such as syllabus, Powerpoints, videos, grades, assignments, and other pertinent information that I use in my classroom. However, I did not see how powerful technology was until we were asked to teach remotely.

I had to learn quickly to use both Blackboard Collaborate and Zoom as a platform for our synchronous teaching. We were given a week to learn all the tools within Blackboard that we have not fully utilized until one is teaching remotely. I introduced Discussion Boards and online tests allowing the students to participate asynchronously in spite of their location. We had to create weekly adjustments to our syllabus to include both synchronous and asynchronous teaching. By using technology in remote teaching, preparation and balance are key in the introduction of the various technologies. I utilized the synchronous teaching by bringing in speakers to do live demos which created an atmosphere of community.

### **Technology in Relationship to Student and Professor Experience**

As we continue our remote training in preparation for the Fall 2020 semester, there are a variety of technologies that one can use to create engagement and excitement in one's course. The goal of online teaching is to ensure that you have a balance of synchronous and asynchronous teaching. As I prepare my course to be taught online, I am intentional on the various types of technology I will be using so as to ensure that the learning outcomes of the course are fully met for each student. I will continue to enhance my Blackboard content by clearly creating weekly folders so as to organize the learning experience for the students. My course will be divided into 7 units which will house two chapters representing two weeks of class time.

Each unit will have a uniform To-Do List to create consistency so that students are fully aware of what is required of them on a weekly basis. Homeworks, readings, recordings of lectures and demonstrations on VoiceThread, videos, discussion boards, and other activities will be focused and clearly identified for accessibility and retrieval. Lectures will be recorded for the students' access on their own time. The introduction of using Padlet for both collaborative and independent activity will be articulated and will be added on an as-needed basis on the various units. The intention is to foster a community amongst the students, use critical thinking, and encourage well thought out learning from one another. The synchronous sessions will consist of creative thinking discussions, Q and A, breakout groups, and guest speakers when available. This will enable me to function more as a facilitator where I can focus on grading, giving feedback as well as accessing students' progress.

### **New Teaching Ideas**

I will be introducing Padlet this semester for both individual and collaborative group work. This will encourage the student to learn effectively and efficiently. Students enjoy learning through visuals as well as being able to show their creative energy. As they will be in various locations, I will encourage them that the work they bring is not only from websites but also what they may

find at home and in their neighborhoods. The use of asynchronous teaching by presenting lectures that are recorded will also allow for a more focused topic discussion where students have the opportunity to comment on the recorded slides and listen to them over again.

### **New Technology Tools Contributions**

The use of technology makes learning more exciting which triggers creativity. Videos and demos of how textiles are produced provide for a better understanding and appreciation of its effects economically, environmentally, socially, and culturally. Moreover, these videos and demonstrations provide an aide to the ease of comprehension of the assigned readings. Each of these tools should assist the students to do the assigned asynchronous work such as discussion boards, assignments, and Padlet to be more interactive generating creative thinking and interaction with each other. It is in anticipation that having all these tools available for the students' use will allow for interactive synchronous sessions.

### **Evaluating Success**

The success of the class will be measured through assessments of students' understanding in the form of online testing and their assigned works on assignments, discussion boards, and Padlet. Students will be asked to answer an anonymous survey after the first 6 weeks of class to provide insights and feedback. Also, I will encourage them to utilize office hours as an individual or a group for assistance in what they may need. As fashion majors, I will stress the importance of ongoing continued learning on textiles beyond this class.

### **Big Picture**

Although technology continues to evolve and reaches a wider audience allowing vast opportunities for learning, one cannot fully depend on it. It should be used to its potential of being a supportive platform for synchronous teaching. The use of technology in online learning is effective if both the student and teacher can foster community and allow room for learning. The preparation required to conduct online classes requires thoughtful consideration of the information and amount being delivered to the students. The benefit to both will be tremendous if the student plays an active role in taking advantage of this form of learning and fully participates in what is required of them.