

Teaching Squares 2020-2021

Program Overview

Teaching Squares are a way to focus on professional development in teaching across the Libraries. Each Square is made up of 4 or 5 instructors from different departments within the Libraries that have been matched together based on shared interest in an aspect of teaching. Throughout the academic year, Teaching Squares meet to work on a project and share their experiences with teaching, and at the end of the year all Squares come together to talk about what they accomplished and learned during their time together.

Squares Themes for 2020-2021

Squares were brought together based on shared interests. The list in this section shows the Squares, what color they were assigned, and the shared interest that all members of the group have in common.

Red - Advanced Online

Orange - Diversity

Yellow - Developing Lessons

Green - Transitioning to Online

Blue - Developing Lessons

Purple - Diversity

Teal - Accessibility

Pink - Transitioning to Online

Aqua - Advanced Online

Each Square will work on a project that is applicable to members' interests and experience with teaching. Each group can choose any project they wish, but it must both **focus on practical ways to improve teaching** and **produce a deliverable**. Squares will share the project they are working on in a spreadsheet, and throughout the year the Instruction Coordinator will check in on progress.

List of Project Ideas

What follows is a list of ideas for projects. You can feel free to choose a project from the list, or to create your own! The Instruction Coordinator will also be happy to work with you to create a project.

- **Instruction observations**, with a focus on what the observer learns through watching the class. In the online environment, there are opportunities to do this for both synchronous and asynchronous teaching.
 - Deliverable idea: notes from observations, along with what the observer plans to do in their teaching and reflection on how those changes went.
- **Critical teaching reflection**, focused on a theme like technology, engagement, or assessment.

- Deliverable idea: Word document of reflections along with notes from discussions.
- **Design an online learning object**, either a large one as a group or smaller ones as individuals.
 - Deliverable idea: the online learning object.
- **Design/revise an assessment for an existing lesson plan.**
 - Deliverable idea: the assessment and lesson plan.
- **Design lesson plans based on a SLAP outcome**, with your whole group choosing the same outcome.
 - Deliverable idea: the lesson plan.
- **Convert an existing face-to-face instruction plan to an online one.**
 - Deliverable idea: both the face-to-face and online plans.
- **Take existing activities / learning objects and adapt them to be more accessible.**
 - Deliverable idea: the activities/objects that were changed, as well as a document detailing what changes were made and any interesting discoveries made along the way.
- **Article discussion group**, where the articles are united by a common theme beyond “instruction” broadly: anti-racism, accessibility, or feminist pedagogy are examples.
 - Deliverable idea: notes from discussions.

Teaching Square Projects, 2020-2021

Square	Project Description	Deliverable
Red	Improving our skills in creating online interactive tools, focusing on Libwizard.	At the end of the year, each square member will have created a polished, ready-to-use Libwizard learning object.
Orange	Reviewing and evaluating lesson materials to support international learners	Updated curriculum items that have been reviewed for UDL and international accessibility
Yellow	Making Online Lessons More Interactive:	Each square member will pick one online lesson plan/activity, indicate potential areas for more interactivity, and describe here and how we want to implement these changes.
Green	Transitioning one face-to-face outline to an online plan (Fall). Assessing that new online plan (Spring).	Best practices for transitioning face-to-face outlines (including tips and tricks for technology), as well as how to assess online!
Blue	Readings selected by members to then discuss over the course of the time frame, with a focus on instruction, outreach, higher-level students, and others as appropriate	A write up of the collective reaction to each article will be completed by each selecting personality to compile into a larger work to be submitted to the Instruction Coordinator at the completion of the time frame in question.
Purple	Readings selected by members to discuss in the fall semester with a focus on diversity. Brainstorming a project to work on based off of those readings.	Project to be determined later based off of the readings that we are doing
Teal	Searching, identifying, and consolidating tips and suggestions for making online teaching / online teaching materials more accessible.	List of tips categorized by accessibility need
Pink		
Aqua	Find effective ways to create online activities for asynchronous classes; become more comfortable using Blackboard as a teaching tool.	Create one online activity that could be used in an asynchronous course? (tentative)