



United International University
QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE

Final Report on:

The Certificate Course on Teaching for Active Learning (TAL-4)
Foundation for Learning, Teaching and Research (fLTR)

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1 Introduction

On the very first day we were asked to take a pre-TAL course assessment test. I remember how I was able to answer only 2 questions. I looked across the room and almost everyone else was in the same situation as me. However, on the last day when we took the exact same test, none of us could stop writing, we kept on asking for extra time over and over again. This clearly shows how much we have learned in such short time.

To be honest, before attending the training I was a bit reluctant about it. Not because I am not curious to learn but because I didn't know what to expect and didn't know if it was worth the time. However, I didn't realize that it would be such an eye opening experience for me. I came to the realization that I barely had any knowledge of teaching. The training allowed me to gain knowledge of decades of teaching experience.

The sessions were well organized. I got to learn concepts like Social Capital, Bloom's Taxonomy, Multiple Intelligence, Transactional Analysis, Pedagogy, Andragogy, just to name a few. The exercises done during the sessions were incredible as well.

2 Day 1

2.1 Social Capital

In this session we learned what Social Capital means and that we need some ground rules for creating an active learning environment.

2.2 Pedagogy and Andragogy

This session started out with a slight introduction to the concept of Pedagogy and Andragogy and ended with a debate on "Effective Teaching and Learning in Higher Education demands moving from Pedagogy to Andragogy"

2.3 Multiple Intelligence

Several different types of intelligence, like Spatial Intelligence, Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence, Musical Intelligence, Linguistic Intelligence, etc., were taught to us in this session. We learned that every single person possesses all kinds of multiple intelligence but not in equal amount. We even did an exercise where we had to select the 3 best intelligence which we could use to improve our teaching techniques.

2.4 Transactional Analysis

This is where we learned about the PAC (Parent, Adult, Child) theory and Personal Ego States. The exercises done during this session was clearly an eye opening experience for me. I got to learn few unexpected things about myself which I had never known.

2.5 Habit

I didn't realize that a such a common word "Habit" could have such a deep meaning. In this session, we learned few effective habits and behaviors of a high performing teacher.

3 Day 2

3.1 Bloom's Taxonomy

This topic was taught to us in depth. We learned about both the original and revised version and also about the lower and higher order of learning.

3.2 Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The differences between curriculum and syllabus were taught to us. We also learned about Learning Outcome and why it is so necessary.

3.3 Introduction to Portfolio

I had come across the word "Portfolio" a handful of times but couldn't make the time to explore what it meant. With the help of this session I now know what it means, why I need it and know how to create one. Hopefully I will start working on my portfolio very soon.

3.4 Creating powerful Powerpoint slides

Several different powerpoint tools were introduced to us in this session.

3.5 How to deal with Disruptive Behaviour

The session started out with an exercise where each of us were asked to write 2 different disruptive behaviors. We watched a video clip and realized that disruptive behaviour can be initiated not only by the students but also by the teacher's attitude as well.

4 Day 3

4.1 Bloom's Taxonomy and Preparing Course Syllabus

We started our final day with several exercises on Bloom's Taxonomy, Course Outline and Question Paper pattern. We were given a list of contents which should be present in a Course Outline.

4.2 Rubrics

We got acquainted to the concept of Rubrics and its applications. We also learned how to evaluate learning performance.

4.3 Behavioral Ethics

We learned about several different types of moral characteristics in this session and why they matter.

5 Experience and feedback

We used to begin everyday by reading the learning reflection of our learning partner from the day before. Then a new learning partner was randomly assigned to us. This allowed each of us to go out of our comfort zone and interact with a new person everyday. At the end of the day we again had to share our learning reflection of the day.

5.1 My Favorites Exercises

Socialization :

Our first day started with an interesting way of socialization. We were teamed with a learning partner and were asked to get acquainted with each other. Then we had to perform a very interesting task, to make a drawing using just 1 marker and our left hands.

I learned a whole bunch of things in this session. I learned to let another person take the lead in spite of having a very prominent leadership behavior. I got the true flavor of doing teamwork with a complete stranger.

Debate on Pedagogy and Andragogy :

This was my favorite session from the whole day. We were divided into 2 groups and were asked to debate with each other. The topic given to us was completely unknown to me and it was really very fun to brainstorm with a bunch of unknown people and enjoying the essence of teamwork.

In addition to brainstorming, the debate itself was exciting as well. I was the Member of Parliament of the against the motion party.

Even though we didn't win, the friendly debate is worth remembering.

Discovering Personal Life Positions in relation to Learners and Discovering Personal ego States :

I guess this session gave all of us a new perspective about ourselves.

5.2 My Favorites Topics

Bloom's Taxonomy :

On the last day of our training we did several exercises on how to prepare a proper course outline and how to prepare a good question paper. This was probably one of the most informative topics in the entire course. I now have a deep understanding of the different levels in Bloom's Taxonomy. I have already started to apply few of the techniques and hope to keep on applying my concept of the topic.

Course Outline :

We did some exercises on improving course outline on the last day. I sure will be applying most of the techniques.

Multiple Intelligence :

I loved this topic because it gave me an insight into the techniques that I have been using in my lectures. This session allowed me to learn the technical terms of the techniques that I use which in turn will allow me to further study the them.

6 Conclusion

You wouldn't believe how many new strategies, that I have learned during the training, I have already applied in my lectures in the last 2 days. I have gained so much through this training!

Not only did I learn all the advanced topics about teaching but also how to convey a lesson. The topics were taught to us through exercises which allowed to do remain active throughout all the sessions.

To be in a room filled with incredible faculty members, from 13 different institutions, to socialize with them and in addition to that meeting amazing new instructors every single day is itself an honour. On the top of that I got to learn to so many new concepts and techniques. This entire experience was truly beyond my expectations. This course is indeed a fantastic initiative.