A MUSICAL, SOME MOVEMENTS & A TRIO OF GROUP PROJECTS

One Critical Thinking Seminar Journey

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AGED 4160/6160 - Ethics and Issues in Agriculture and the Food and Fiber System
A CT SEMINAR JOURNEY: AGED 4160/6160

- Inaugural offering Spring 2015 w/Tom Dobbins
- 2015 & 2016 Spring offered as a general class
- Kirby Player attended institute in June 2017
- 2017 syllabus/class received CT seminar overhaul
- Enrollment for 15-17 were between 30-40.
- 2018 enrollment had to be limited to 50.
- Evaluations provided qualitative evidence of the impact of class enhancements.
- Consideration of offering two sections with 36 undergrad & 4 Grad seats in 2019.
Completely reworked the syllabus.
Musicals & Media as a Critical Thinking Teaching Medium:

Theater Thursdays Purpose:
• Exposing the CAFLS student body to art & the process of art appreciation/interpretation as a form of critical thinking and a history lesson of an original American art form.

Musicals & Media as a Critical Thinking Teaching Medium:

Theater Thursdays Purpose:
• Musical exert introduces a concept/issue.
• Past/current issues in agriculture are linked.
• Class engages in discussion & CT pairings.
• Reflection/CT Movement paper is assigned.
Musicals & Media as a Critical Thinking Teaching Medium:

Theater Thursdays Examples:

- Oklahoma – Western Expansion
- The Music Man – Marketing & Advertising
- Newsies – Ag Labor Issues
- Little Shop of Horrors – Genetically Modified
Critical Thinking Written Assignments:

CT Movements Papers:

- An effort to truly evaluate if the student comprehends critical thinking in writing.
- Self-identification of critical thinking writing movements through review in word or parenthetical description.
- Greater emphasis placed on critical thinking structured execution than content.
- A series of sources for research are provided.
Critical Thinking Written Assignments:
Reflection Exercises

- Based on a topic/issue addressed during class.
  - Expert lecture
  - Theater Thursday
  - Group project presentation

- Mentor document provided to demonstrate quality.

- Students respond to three questions based on this structure:
Critical Thinking Written Assignments: Reflection Exercises

- **New knowledge/experience:**
  State new knowledge or experience you gained from class regarding XXXXXXX.

- **Reflection from your past:**
  Share a story from your past that was triggered by this new knowledge/experience. Make it vivid (describe scents, colors, people, etc.) Transport your reader back in time with you.

- **Resulting actions/wisdom:**
  Think about the new knowledge and the past experience you have shared. Now, what will you do differently (or not)? Why? Use “I” in this concluding section. Include specific actions.
Critical Thinking Written Assignments:
White Paper Assignment
• Based on a topic/issue addressed during class.
  • Expert lecture
  • Theater Thursday
  • Group project presentation

• The structure, purpose, use and attributes of a traditional white paper are discussed extensively in class.

• Mentor document provided to...
A Trio of Group Projects: Try, Try & Try Again

- Years 2015 & 2016
  - Group class presentation on selected hot topic X vs. Y.
- Year 2017
  - Group Social Media projects based on approved group generated idea.
- Year 2018
  - Discussion Meet format for hot topic.
A Trio of Group Projects: Hot Topic Presentation:

- Was simply one more Power Point report to a class.
- Created a binary view of a topic of X vs. Y.
- Ultimate goal was to report or propose a solution.
- Required classroom engagement.
- Often was at its core a research report.

Image acquired from: https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/353603008225680042/
A Trio of Group Projects: Social Media Project:

• AN ADVENTURE.
• We learned as much from mistakes as success.
• Developing an actual working rubric was challenging.
• Bulk of work could fall on the tech savvy students.
• Some projects lacked depth of exploration for current issues.
A Trio of Group Projects: Discussion Meet:

- Requires group members to fulfill specific roles.
- Exposes entire group to all sides of an issue.
- Wild card offers an opportunity for creativity.
- Creates group dynamic during class room presentation.
- Discussion as a committee vs. debate.
A MUSICAL, SOME MOVEMENTS &
A TRIO OF GROUP PROJECTS:
WHAT I HAVE LEARNED ON THIS JOURNEY

• Be willing to adjust, change and alter any aspect of the class until you are convinced your pupils are grasping CT.
• Becoming familiar with aspects of each students biography helps to access their status and progress through the class.
• Politely ask & request from peers to BEG, BORROW & STEAL.
• Utilize Dr. Knox and his team.
• Assess and seek extra evaluations from your students.
• Never stop exploring and learning about CT personally.

Please share your
Questions and Comments