

Getting Started in the Classroom

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New phase in your education

- For many, this involves being an instructor or teaching assistant
- You have learned the material
- Now you need to learn to teach the material
- New set of challenges

Instructor = Employee

- You are now an employee of UT
- **RESPONSIBILITY**
 - FERPA
 - Diversity
 - Sexual Harassment
 - Accessibility
 - Academic dishonesty
- You are the face of UT to your students
 - Your attitudes influence them
 - They reflect that attitude back to you and to others

What is your role?

- Who is the instructor of record?
- What rights and responsibilities do you have?
 - Is this your course to design a syllabus for and make all decisions
 - Is this a course with a set syllabus and some freedoms?
 - Is this a multi section course with a set syllabus and specific/consistent rules for all sections?

- Make sure to meet with your department chair/ course coordinator/advisor to get a clear understanding of your role

Syllabus

- Contract between you and your students
- Specific information regarding the course content, objectives, grading policy, etc.
- If your course does not have one, ask for copies from other instructors as a guide

- Exam/quiz/assignment dates
- UT Academic Dishonesty Policy - plagiarism
- UT Student Judicial Process

Academic Dishonesty

- Unfortunate but real problem
- Department may have a specific description of the problem and actions taken
- Make sure you can document your position
 - New feature in BB9.1
- Think through actions/ consequences

Be Prepared: Know the Room and the Technology

- Room: check lighting, shades, outlets, network connection
- Check out *exact* hardware and software you'll use
- Academic Support/
Classroom Services



Tips and Advice for the First (and Most Important) Class Day

- Arrive 20 minutes early (and stay 20 minutes after class)
- Put up a “Welcome to [Course and Section]” sign or slide
- Start class on time
- Go over the syllabus (don’t just pass it out!)
- Some course content – at minimum give a brief overview and review prerequisites

How do I teach?

- No one answer
- Many ideas/ approaches/ opinions
- Use your own experiences as a student
 - Model good ideas from previous instructors
 - Avoid problems you saw created