

## SYLLABUS (DRAFT 8/26/19)

### COLT 593: Teaching Practicum for Graduate Students (2 units)

Fall 2019  
Section: 22086  
Time: M 2:30-4:20  
Location: THH 120

Professor: Erin Graff Zivin  
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Office: THH 156M  
Off. Hrs.: M 11-12, by appt.



Cheers for Miss Bishop (Dir. Tay Garnett, 1941)

### Course Description and Objectives

This 2-unit class fulfills a requirement for all new teaching assistants in Dornsife. The course will prepare you to lead a discussion section as a TA, as well as provide you with basic skills to teach future courses throughout your academic career. You will learn to prepare a syllabus and lesson plan, rehearse lectures and discussion facilitation, write a statement of teaching philosophy. In addition, we will think, together, about the current challenges of teaching within a sometimes precarious institutional and political climate. The question of anti-racist pedagogy will be addressed, and you will be provided with on campus and online resources to further your pedagogical training. Finally, we will talk about ways to balance teaching, research, and other demands. The course will be graded on a Pass/No-Pass (P/NP) basis.

### Prerequisite

This is a graduate course for doctoral students. There are no prerequisites.

## **Schedule:**

### **Week 1 (August 26):**

**Introduction; Preparing for the first day of class**

Watch: The Act of Teaching, <https://vimeo.com/107609898>

### **Week 2 (September 9):**

**What do the best college teachers do?**

Read: Bain, Ch. 1-3

Prepare: Lesson plan

### **Week 3 (September 23):**

**To lecture or not to lecture**

Read: Bain, Ch. 5; Gross-Loh, "Should Colleges Really Eliminate the College Lecture?"

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/07/eliminating-the-lecture/491135/>

Prepare: Mini lecture (10 minutes)

### **Week 4 (October 14):**

**Discussion facilitation**

Read: Bain, Ch. 6

Prepare: Discussion topic (20 minutes)

### **Week 5 (October 28):**

**Anti-racist pedagogy**

Read: Bain, Ch. 4; hooks (selection); Di Angelo, "White Fragility"; Martínez, "A Plea for Critical Race Theory Counterstory"

Skype discussion led by Prof. Lacey Schauwecker

### **Week 6 (November 4):**

**Course design**

Read: Bain, Ch. 7; hooks (selection)

Prepare: Syllabus 1

### **Week 7 (November 18):**

**Course design**

Prepare: Syllabus 2

### **Week 8 (December 2):**

**Discussion of teaching statements**

Read: <https://ucat.osu.edu/professional-development/teaching-portfolio/philosophy/>

Prepare: Teaching philosophy statement

## **Required Texts**

Ken Bain, *What the Best College Teachers Do*.

bell hooks, *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*.

**Course assignments:**

Lesson plan

Mini-lecture

Discussion facilitation

Sample syllabus I (Survey course)

Sample syllabus II (Your area of specialization)

Teaching philosophy statement

**Grading (P/NP):**

**P:** = or >80%; **NP:** <80%

**Resources:**

Dornsife Teaching Assistant Handbook: <https://dornsife.usc.edu/teaching-assistant-handbook/>

Center for Excellence in Teaching TA Resources: <http://cet.usc.edu/resources/teaching-assistant-resources/>

TA Resources: [http://cet.usc.edu/cet/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/CETResource\\_TAResourcesHandout.pdf](http://cet.usc.edu/cet/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/CETResource_TAResourcesHandout.pdf)

TA Decision Chart: [http://cet.usc.edu/cet/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/17\\_TA\\_decision\\_chart.pdf](http://cet.usc.edu/cet/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/17_TA_decision_chart.pdf)

Writing a Teaching Philosophy Statement: <https://ucat.osu.edu/professional-development/teaching-portfolio/philosophy/>

**Academic Conduct:**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

**Support Systems:**

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. [engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255*

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. [engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: [sarc.usc.edu](http://sarc.usc.edu)

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance - (213) 740-5086*

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class.

[equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu)

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs*

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations.

[dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

*Student Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa)

*Diversity at USC*

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. [diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

*USC Emergency Information*

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-4321 - HSC: (323) 442-1000 - 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.*

Provides overall safety to USC community. [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)