

UC Liberal Arts

Workshops about the practice of teaching at UCU, 2015-2016

The teaching in a liberal arts context requires special skills. For example: interactive teaching in small groups, leading discussions, teaching a culturally and academically diverse group of students, teaching the academic context and history of the discipline, interdisciplinary teaching, and teaching in English. Teaching at a University College also entails engaging with the student community, both inside and outside the classroom. This requires an understanding of the philosophy and ideals of a liberal arts education and a basic awareness of the intellectual development of students.

One of the first initiatives of the new University Colleges Deans Network (<https://www.universitycolleges.info>) is to offer joint opportunities for faculty development. These can be found under the tab 'for UC teachers'. Participating colleges will each advertise their own activities and invite colleagues from other colleges to register.

This document describes the program at University College Utrecht.



About the workshops at University College Utrecht

Most teachers at UCU have completed BKO training. This addresses topics such as presenting skills, principles of testing, writing assignments and exams, course design, grading and giving feedback, use of ICT, and communicating with students. The 'UC Liberal Arts' workshops complement this training by addressing topics specific to teaching in a liberal arts context.

The target audience consists of teachers at UCU and at participating University Colleges in the Netherlands; UU faculty may register as well. Participants receive a certificate of participation, which can be used in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a B(S)KO certificate at UCU¹.

Each workshop addresses specific skills necessary for teaching in the liberal arts (for BKO) and/or for developing the liberal arts curriculum (for SKO). The workshop leaders are experienced UCU faculty who developed their workshops with UU's Center for Teaching and Learning. The workshops will: (1) feature the diverse best practices of experienced liberal arts teachers, (2) introduce participants to inspiring scholarly work, (3) provide hands-on training as well as ideas to implement in the classroom or in course and/or curriculum design, and (4) inform participant's individual teaching philosophy and approach to teaching in the liberal arts.

Those actively working towards submitting a BKO or SKO portfolio are invited to take part in more informal meetings surrounding the workshops. These meetings provide opportunities for discussion, experimentation, feedback, and collaboration.

¹ Participants from other institutions are advised to discuss formalities with their director of education, and/or BKO committee.

Workshop Themes

Themes and sub-themes specific to liberal arts teaching, addressed in the workshops:

- A. The liberal arts philosophy:
 1. History, ideals, and the curriculum
 2. Individual teaching philosophy
- B. Teaching one's academic discipline in a liberal arts and sciences program:
 1. Context and history of the discipline
 2. Different ways of knowing, grand problems, interdisciplinary teaching
- C. Liberal arts teaching skills:
 1. Teaching to a (culturally and academically) diverse group
 2. Teaching across a language divide
 3. Teaching interactively (small groups, discussions)
- D. Personal development of students:
 1. Evoking excellence (honors)
 2. Contact with the individual student (individual guidance)
 3. What college does to students: intellectual and ethical development

UC Liberal Arts Program for the academic year 2015-2016



Date:	(Working) Title:	Workshop leader(s):	Theme:
Tuesday			
Sept. 29	Evoking Excellence	Rob van der Vaart	D1
Oct. 27	Teacher as Advisor	Jocelyn Ballantyne & Christel Lutz	D2
Nov. 10	Leading Discussions	Floris vd Burg & Gaetano Fiorin	C3
Dec. 8	Motivation in the Liberal Arts	Christel Lutz & Jan van Tartwijk	D3
Feb 16	Teaching across a Language Divide	Annemieke Meijer and others	C2
March 8	Interdisciplinary Teaching	Ria van der Lecq and others	B2
March 29	The International Classroom	Lonia Jakubowska and others	C1
April 26	Liberal Arts Ideals and Curriculum	<i>Several fellows</i>	A1

Up-to-date information is posted at: <https://www.universitycolleges.info> and <http://tauu.uu.nl/>.

All meetings take place on Tuesday afternoons, 3-5 pm, in room Locke D at UCU's campus. Workshops will be open to UCU faculty, including UU faculty teaching at UCU (with priority), faculty at participating colleges, and other UU faculty. Registration is required and limited to 25.

For further information and feedback: please contact Christel Lutz at UCU (c.i.lutz@uu.nl).

We look forward to welcoming you in Utrecht!