

IDPO 2910 Undergraduate Teaching Opportunities (UTOP) - Fall 2023-24

Course Instructor

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Guest Instructor

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Course Description

Undergraduate Teaching Opportunities (UTOP) is a unique course which provides basic teacher's training to undergraduate students.

UTOP aims at helping students to acquire and practice the core competencies and providing unique and real-life teaching experience for HKUST students. Teaching is a process of helping learners to acquire knowledge in an effective way. Such process involves receiving and giving effective pedagogical instructions and is often characterized by its experiential and reflective nature. Thus, UTOP aims at allowing students who are interested in teaching to practice their teaching skills by providing them with real-life teaching opportunities. Pre-teaching training, consultation sessions will be provided to ensure students are well-prepared for their teaching. Reflection sessions and a mini teaching conference will allow students to practice the essential competences for teaching and encouraging students to deepen their learning through experiential learning.

Course ILOs

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- explain the subject knowledge accurately and effectively to learners;
- design, implement and evaluate appropriate learning, teaching and assessment strategies to cater the learners' individual learning differences;
- identify and address educational issues by adopting appropriate strategies to arouse learners' interest; and
- reflect on and make reasoned analysis on one's teaching.

Course Highlights

- This is a pilot-run course.
- The course structured around four basic components: Pre-teaching training, consultation sessions with staff, actual teaching, and teaching conferences.
- Students will be given opportunities to design their teaching materials which will be taught to a group of secondary/primary school students.
- The theme of UTOP (i.e. the content/subject of UST students' teaching) may vary from year to year, depending on collaborating faculty (i.e. guest instructor). For 2023-24 Fall, the theme is English Language teaching.
- No pre-requisite is required.

Required Reading

Ambrose, S. A., Bridges, M. W., DiPietro, M., Lovett, M. C., & Norman, M. K. (2010). *How learning works*. John Wiley & Sons.

Assessment

Task	Weighting	Due dates
Actual teaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal of teaching (x1) • Actual teaching sessions to secondary school students (x4) • Teaching Conference Presentation (x1) 	60%	N/A
	5%	Week 8
	50%	Week 9-12
	5%	Week 13
Learning portfolio	30%	Week 12
Class participation	10%	N/A

Course Schedule

Week	Date and Topic
1	Thursday, Sep 7 - Lecture #1: Introduction of UTOP, Mingling & Understanding perspectives on teaching Focus: Introduction of UTOP; course structure; assessment tasks etc. Mingling & Understanding perspectives on teaching.
2	Thursday, Sep 14 – Lecture #2: Teach Experience sharing + “Teach Me One Thing” Focus: Building a sense of community; faculty and/or secondary school teachers are invited to share their teaching experience/perspective on teaching.
3	Thursday, Sep 21 - Lecture #3: How Learning Works (Part 1) Focus: Any effective teaching must begin with a consideration of how students learn. This lecture intends to introduce the science of learning and research-based learning theories.
4	Thursday, Sep 28 – Lecture #4: How Learning Works (Part 2) Focus: Any effective teaching must begin with a consideration of how students learn. This lecture intends to introduce the science of learning and research-based learning theories.
5	Thursday, Oct 5 - Lecture #5: Effective teaching and explanation skills Focus: There are many ways of teaching, but some are more effective than others. Effective teaching utilizes instructional strategies that are most appropriate for the content and the student and is carried out in a proficient manner that allows for deep learning.
6	Thursday, Oct 12 - Lecture #6: Assessment and feedback Focus: Assessment is a central feature of teaching, and frames how students learn and what students achieve. This lecture will explore the design of assessment tasks and ways to provide constructive feedback to students.

6-7	<p>Friday – Wednesday, Oct 13-18 - Lecture #7: Consultation session (Faculty + Teaching skills)</p> <p>Focus: Students (as a team) will meet with faculty to discuss the content and topics they intended to teach. The topics must be accurate and appropriate to learners' level. After finalising the content students want to teach, they will meet with the course instructor to discuss (or revise) how they plan to deliver the content to their learners.</p>
7	<p>Thursday, Oct 19 – Lecture #8: Rehearsal of Actual Teaching</p>
8	<p>Thursday, Oct 26 – Lecture #9: Actual Teaching</p>
9	<p>Thursday, Nov 2- Lecture #10: Actual Teaching</p>
10	<p>Thursday, Nov 9 – Lecture #11: Actual Teaching</p>
11	<p>Thursday, Nov 16– Lecture #12: Actual Teaching</p>
12	<p>Thursday, Nov 23 – Lecture #13: Debrief on teaching experience</p> <p>Focus: Students will come together as a group to discuss, evaluate and reflect on their actual teaching experience.</p>
13	<p>Thursday, Nov 30 – Lecture #14: Teaching Conference & Reflection Session</p> <p>Focus: a mini teaching conference will be organised where cross-team collaboration and on-the-spot teaching will be involved. Students will be reflecting on the overall experience in the course.</p>