One of the great challenges is how do we engage students in learning interactively.

Over the years I have developed some key Foundational Principles for Effective and Innovative Teaching, based on my own experiences as well as my reading of the scholarly literature on teaching and learning and my involvement in many workshops and colloquia.
Foundational Pedagogical Principles

• Analyze our teaching contexts
  • my institutional setting
  • myself as a teacher
  • my students

Foundational Pedagogical Principles

• Analyze our teaching contexts
• Articulate clear outcomes
Integrated Course Design

**Objectives**
Strategies instructors create to enable learning

**Outputs**
Tasks and activities the students undertake

**Outcomes**
the overall impact of the course

Backward Design process

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Foundational Pedagogical Principles

- Analyze our teaching contexts
- Articulate clear outcomes
- Foster deep learning
- Engage diverse learning styles
- Enable interactive learning
Engaging Students in Learning

• “learner-centered teaching”: providing students with the tools they require in order to play their own lead role in the creation of meaning

• “active learning”: including case-based, field-based, inquiry-based, problem-based, and experiential-based learning

• “authentic learning”: students engaging in real or realistic activities similar to those they will encounter in the workforce

Survivor: Discipleship Edition

Matthew 16:15-19: He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.
I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
Ice-breakers

“Values Clarification”
- Lifeboat
  - Pregnant woman
  - Teenage boy
  - Catholic Priest
  - Parolee
  - Physician

A trolley is headed toward five people, and the only way you can save them is to hit a switch that will turn the trolley away from the five and onto a side track, but if you turn it onto the side track, it will run over one person. What will you do?

This time, you’re on a footbridge, in between the oncoming trolley and the five people. And next to you is a big person wearing a big backpack. And the only way you can save those five people is to push this big guy off of the footbridge so that he lands on the tracks. And he’ll get squashed by the train, you sort of use him as a trolley stopper. But you can save the five people.

Religion and Business Ethics

Self-assessments

Rokeach Value Survey
- As a group is the class very similar in its value orientation? Why or why not?

Survey of Ethical Theoretic Aptitudes
- Instructions: Each of the statements can be completed in two ways. Think about each alternative, and circle the one that you think best represents your feelings. There are no correct or incorrect answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>“flaming utilitarian”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>“moderate utilitarian”</td>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>“mugwump” (fence-sitter)</td>
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<tr>
<td>-2</td>
<td>“moderate deontologist”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-5</td>
<td>“ice-cold deontologist”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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About 90% of respondents score in the -5 to +5 range.
Case Studies

Religion and Business Ethics

Child Labour

Right or Wrong?

What is the Bible?

- Hebrew Bible
  - 39 books (Pro/Jew)
  - 46 books (Catholic)
  - 47 books (Eastern Orthodox)

- New Testament
  - 27 books
    - 4 Gospels
    - Acts
    - 14 “Pauline” letters
    - 7 “General” letters
    - Revelation

Formation of NT Canon

- NT References
- Apostolic “Fathers”
- Marcion (c. 144 CE)
- Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons (178-200)
- Muratorian Canon (200 CE; Rome)
- Council of Carthage (c. 400 CE)
- Reformation (XIV CE)
Greek and Roman Religions
Learning Outcomes
Through the course students will
• examine diverse social contexts and practices of private and semi-private religious associations in the Greco-Roman period;
• cultivate abilities to analyze ancient inscriptions, papyri documents, and literary texts;
• engage with the methodological complexity of (re-)constructing ancient religious practices;
• encounter various learning styles through content input, interactive tasks, and graded assignments.

Understanding Ritual

Initiatory Rites
• Describe your experiences of Orientation Week at Queen’s. What happened to make you “feel” like a “Queen’s student,” like you “belonged”? If not, why not?
• Make a list of common “feelings” among those at your table.
• Can these be linked to common types of experiences?
Recreating a Ritual

Using the (little) knowledge we have of Mithraism and the depictions in the mosaic floor of the Mithraeum del Felicissimo in Ostia, design a “ritual of status transformation” that would take the initiate from the grade before to your grade.

“Definitely the most INTERESTING university class ever. I will now never forget the initiation grades in the Mithras mysteries. It was not the most comfortable exercise for me but it was entertaining and engaging.” (student, Winter 2015)

Who Wins in a Fight?

Cybele versus Isis

Develop four arguments why your deity is the best god of them all.

Be prepared to present them to the class.

“It was really interesting to hear everyone’s arguments and everyone seemed really engaged. That kind of engaged discussion makes for a really effective learning environment.”
Cybele vs. Isis

“Cybele was way more of a feminist. #teamCybele.”

(Student, Fall 2016)

“It was really interesting to hear everyone’s arguments and everyone seemed really engaged. That kind of engaged discussion makes for a really effective learning environment.”

(Student, Winter 2015)
Prepare to be Spontaneous

“Gilmore Girl explanation was useful, made more sense of the course as a whole!”

Student Responses:
• Engaging
• Effective
• Affirming
• Interesting
• Fun
• Challenging
• Unique
• Confidence
• Transferable
• Confidence