

Critical Conversations: Faculty Dialogues on Pedagogy
Spring 2012

How do we actively engage *all* students in their educational experiences and connect them to the “big” questions in our disciplines? The Center for Teaching and Faculty Development, in collaboration with UMass Amherst Libraries and the Teaching Commons, offers the *Critical Conversations* series offers an opportunity for instructors from across the disciplines to share effective teaching practices that enrich and enliven undergraduate education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. This year's dialogues will focus on building teaching and learning environments that are inclusive and create a sustained impact on student learning.

To register please email DBurns@admin.umass.edu

Spring 2012

February 7th, 2012 (Tuesday)

Maurianne Adams, Student Development

Alex Deschamps, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies

12:00 – 1:15 pm

How do we engage all of our students reflectively and thoughtfully on challenging and often emotional topics related to issues of our diverse society and social justice? How do we welcome a wide range of students in sustained, critical dialogues on issues that have personal, national, and global implications? In this session we will address interdisciplinary strategies for designing and aligning course goals, learning activities and assessment strategies that build the knowledge, skills, and values needed in our diverse democracy.

March 7th, 2012 (Wednesday)

Lisa Green, Linguistics

Haivan Hoang, English

12:00 – 1:15 pm

How do you help students learn to learn, to examine and assess their own learning and thinking, and to read more and more effectively (e.g., analytically and actively)? In this session we will address interdisciplinary strategies for helping students move beyond the mental models and intuitive understandings they bring into the classroom towards a more critical understanding and skillful use of communication and language.