

GSTTS Seminar 3 - Summary

This week we broached the topic “Motivating Students”. We started as we always have by taking questions and listening to comments about how their classes and grading are going. We then started by having them break into groups and think about/discuss examples of things that have motivated them in class, demotivated them, and also things they have done as an instructor to motivate students. We went around the room and had each person share one or two of the things they talked about with their partner. We recorded these and put them up on the document cam in the classroom.

We then went over some items from our own experiences. This included some items we’d used to motivate students in our classes and why we used them (these were examples that hadn’t been mentioned during the earlier discussion), and then presented some scientifically-backed resources on the UNM OSET site, as well as the Blooms learning taxonomy. We concluded by having them break up into small groups again and decide on 1-2 actionable items from the earlier discussion they could implement in their class or grading before the next seminar.

GSTTS Seminar 3 - Reflection

This felt like our smoothest seminar yet. Sitting amongst the others rather than standing in authoritative positions seemed to loosen people up and stimulate a bit more conversation. It also seems as though several sessions in getting everyone a little more comfortable with the environment and so a little more willing to talk without feeling embarrassed or shy. Also, moving away from “lectures” and more towards “assignments” gets everyone more engaged since they have each thought about the topic and so have things to share.