

Spring 2024 TLC Inquiry Groups

Alternative Grading Methods

In this inquiry group, led by Eric Jensen, participants will discuss various alternative methods of grading (e.g. standards-based grading, specifications grading, labor-based grading, and more), and explore questions like,

How effective are traditional grades at evaluating student learning and progress? What is the relationship between grades and student motivation for learning in our courses? What are examples of alternative grading methods and how can I apply them in my courses without it becoming too much work? What types of alternative grading would work best for my field and specific course needs?

This inquiry group is open to all faculty and staff, whether already experienced with alternative methods of grading or simply interested in trying them out in small ways. [Sign up here.](#)

Artificial Intelligence

The TLC is pleased to invite you to sign up for the **Artificial Intelligence Inquiry Group**, led by Bob Rehak, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies and Amanda Licastro, Digital Scholarship Librarian. This inquiry group is a component of the Mellon Tri-co AI Brainstorming effort.

The Artificial Intelligence inquiry group will explore how Large Language Models (LLMs) and other forms of generative AI have and will continue to impact our teaching and student learning. Focused on the implications of these emerging technologies for classroom practice and institutional policy and supported by additional events, the AI inquiry group will meet three times throughout the semester to facilitate cross-disciplinary conversations and target specific areas for further discussion, including:

- Discipline-specific perspectives on and priorities around AI
- Responsible student use of AI
- Teaching critical literacies around AI-generated content
- Designing and assessing assignments using AI

This group will meet three times throughout the semester on Friday mornings from 10-11:30am (coffee and refreshments provided) and is open to faculty and staff at any level of expertise. [Sign up here.](#)

BAR-WE (Building Anti-Racist White Educators)

The TLC is pleased to invite you to sign up for the **Building Anti-Racist White Educators (BAR-WE) inquiry group**, facilitated by Assistant Professor, Jen Bradley (Educational Studies) and Associate Professor, Kevin Webb (Computer Science). The group will meet three times in each of the fall and spring semesters. Faculty and staff are invited to sign up for this inquiry group whether or not they attended in the Fall semester.

BAR-WE groups were started by educators in Philadelphia, guided by the belief that white educators must play an active role in the dismantling of white supremacy within our educational institutions. To work towards this more just world, the BAR-WE inquiry group provides a set of tools for introspection, learning, and action related to issues of racism in our educational institutions, classrooms, and communities. While the BAR-WE curriculum is designed for white educators to better understand and practice anti-racism in the classroom, all faculty and staff are welcome to attend/join the group. [Sign up here.](#)

Student Health and Wellness

The TLC is pleased to invite you to sign up for the **Student Health and Well-Being inquiry group** led by Visiting Assistant Professor in Computer Science, Chris Murphy. Started in the Fall 2023 semester, this group of faculty, staff, and students explore topics related to health, wellbeing, and care on campus. The group will build upon ideas presented in the Fall, but is open to new members interested in student health and wellness at Swarthmore. CAPS will contribute to discussion topics and frameworks. [Sign up here.](#)

This inquiry group will investigate the following questions:

How can instructors:

- structure courses in a way that facilitates wellness as well as learning?
- support students in distress while maintaining healthy boundaries?
- support students living with ongoing mental health conditions such as anxiety, depression, PTSD, etc.?
- work with and advocate for campus resources?

Writing Pedagogies

In this inquiry group, led by Alba Newmann Holmes and Anthony Foy, participants will discuss the role of writing at Swarthmore, engaging with questions like,

What is good writing, and how does one learn it? How do we teach writing in individual disciplines and across the curriculum? What are the goals of the Writing requirement at Swarthmore, and are our W courses meeting those goals? What innovative writing pedagogies can we envision and engage with in the future?

Faculty and staff engaged with or curious about writing pedagogy and the role of writing in the curriculum are encouraged to participate. [Sign up here.](#)