

A LIVING LABORATORY

Redesigning General Education for a 21st-Century College of Technology



Matthew K. Gold, Richard Hanley, Maura Smale, Shelley Smith
New York City College of Technology

CUNY General Education Conference
May 13, 2011

programs in the professions, health
and human services, technology, and
design, which share **hands–
on, inquiry–based,
laboratory models**
of instruction through direct
experience.

Adjacent to Brooklyn's
historic and
endangered
industrial waterfront

grants from the NEH and NSF
have enabled faculty and students to
develop expertise in the
interdisciplinary
study of our
surrounding
neighborhoods



Sludge Tank, Greenpoint, Brooklyn



Boaters in Newtown Creek, Brooklyn

The
Brooklyn
Waterfront
is
our laboratory

TITLE V GRANT:
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (2010–2015)

1. Run General Education Faculty Seminars
2. Create an Open Digital Platform for Teaching and Learning
3. Foster a Culture of Assessment
4. Build an Endowment for the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center

GENERAL EDUCATION SEMINARS



GENERAL EDUCATION SEMINARS



GENERAL EDUCATION SEMINARS

A Living Laboratory: General Education Seminars at City Tech

Revitalizing General Education



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Tag Archives: *active learning*

Possible writing assignments

Posted on [March 11, 2011](#) by [Daniela Viviana Vladutescu](#)

In an attempt to organize myself for the fall semester course I tried to write down some of the ideas circulated in the today's seminar, discussed in Bean's book and also from my own experience. Here are the assignments structured ... [Continue reading →](#)

Posted in [Active learning](#), [March 11](#) | Tagged [active learning](#), [documentation](#), [Gen Ed example](#), [John Bean](#), [Mar11](#), [questions](#), [WAC](#), [Writing](#) | [3 Comments](#)

Announcement: Reading for March 11th

Posted on [March 5, 2011](#) by [Jody R. Rosen](#)

On March 11th, City Tech's Writing Fellows will join our group and help us think about writing in the context of our first-year courses. This work will build on work that you did at yesterday's very productive meeting with the ... [Continue reading →](#)

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Getting Started

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André Pitanga Honored by The CUNY Graduate Center

We are delighted to report that André Pitanga , IT Senior Associate (Level 2) at the CUNY Graduate Center and Systems Administrator for the CUNY Academic Commons, received ...

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Maura A. Smale



Luigi Bonaffini



Ed Hack




Scott Voth




Kelly Baker Josephs

Friday, May 13, 2011

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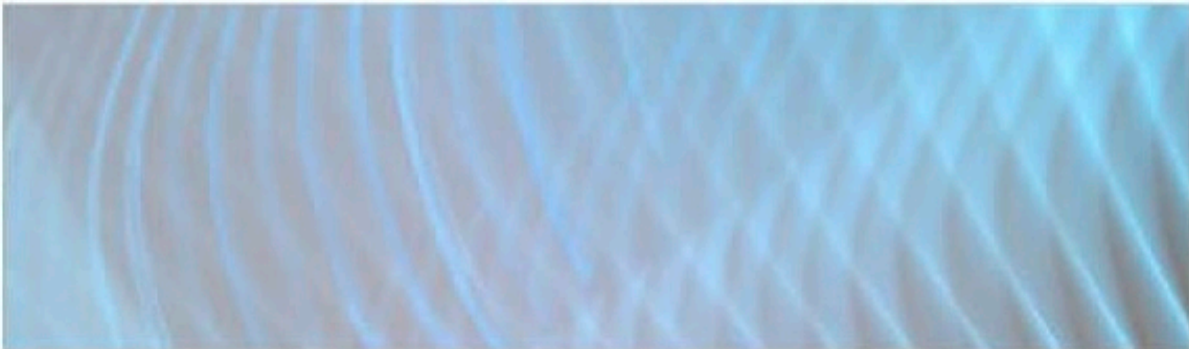


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Faculty Name(s) | Days offered

Course Description: Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Fusce ornare tincidunt imperdiet. Sed fringilla augue nec quam commodo volutpat. Mauris vulputate bibendum ipsum in lobortis. Proin semper sapien sed augue euismod tincidunt. Fusce eu metus velit. Proin lobortis ultrices pretium. Aenean dictum lectus felis. Etiam velit justo, ornare id ullamcorper in, pharetra a odio. Duis sed enim dui. Integer metus metus, molestie quis ullamcorper nec, egestas eu urna. Nulla sed libero mi. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus. Cras id enim eget enim lacinia porttitor.

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BROOKLYN WATERFRONT RESEARCH CENTER



BROOKLYN WATERFRONT RESEARCH CENTER



The historic Dutch Flat Bottomed Fleet in Atlantic Basin, Brooklyn, during an event cosponsored by PortSide and the NYC Economic Development Corporation.

INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Though New York is bounded by water, it has not been perceived as a waterfront city. For too long New York cut itself off from the waterfront. If it hadn't been for places like the Battery launch to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, some visitors might never have even been aware of the waters around the city. It is only in recent years that public attention has shifted to the shoreline. Now it's important to make people aware not only of the waterfront but of the waters themselves, and the benefits that can be gained from engaging with the Blue Network. Reconnecting with the water will provide social, economic, and environmental advantages.

Water-focused events help bring attention to the Blue Network. These events include

shoreline to be viewed as an attractive location for businesses, which, in turn, provide jobs for residents and more financial investment in protecting the water for continued public use.

Branding initiatives, such as NYC & Company's NYHarborWay, are another way to heighten the Blue Network's visibility among New Yorkers and visitors. This program, launched in 2006, promotes a unified identity for the sites that make up the Upper Bay in Brooklyn and Manhattan, including Governors Island, the East River Esplanade South, and Brooklyn Bridge Park. This program presents a model of how to bring vibrancy to waterfront public spaces through marketing, wayfinding, and transportation connections.

The City's Department of Cultural Affairs has provided funding to many cultural institutions on the waterfront that promote the use of the Blue Network. Funding has gone to-

USING THE WATERWAYS FOR EDUCATION

The Blue Network can play an important educational role. It can help us learn about New York City history and about environmental issues, climate change, and the aquatic habitat.

There are school programs throughout New York that utilize our waterways as a teaching tool. The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, a public high school located on Governors Island, has designed its entire curriculum around the waterways. Students study the aquatic environment, marine vessels, fishing, and oyster gardening. They learn what New York's Harbor was once like and are challenged to consider what it can become. Many graduates go on to careers in the maritime industry or environmental sciences. The Harbor School could be a model for schools in waterfront locations elsewhere in New York.

Educational organizations also offer programs that provide learning opportunities. One example: Rocking the Boat, which engages schoolchildren in the South Bronx in building wooden boats, then learning to use the boats in the waterways near their community.

Higher-education institutions also use the waterways for teaching. The New York City College of Technology recently received a five-year \$3.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to revise the general-education component of the college curriculum. As faculty design courses, they will integrate the study of the Brooklyn waterfront into all disciplines—from science to history, from literature to math—treating the waterfront as a living lab. As part of the grant, the school will receive matching funds of up to \$50,000 annually to endow a Brooklyn Waterfront Center that will sponsor research and public programs.

Boat tours, museums, and historic sites

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