Teaching!

Kinnis Gosha (Morehouse College)
Ran “RON” Libeskind-Hadas (Claremont McKenna College)
Small Group Conversation:

What aspects of teaching…
• … do you most enjoy?
• … find most stressful or difficult?
You may experience some déjà vu from the Teaching Workshop!
Tip #0: Accept that it takes some time for it to feel comfortable

• There is no one *right* way to do it!
• Allow yourself to develop your own style
• Students change and our teaching must adapt
• Explore ways to make it fun for you ☑️ your students
Tip #1: Think about *why* you’re teaching what you’re teaching

- Specific content? Problem-solving? Becoming a lifelong learner?
- Organize course around the learning objectives
- Regularly remind your students why they are learning this
- Assign work that feels useful (and even fun!)
Tip #2: Stay organized!

• Have a clear syllabus and stick to it
• Provide some flexibility for your students
  • Self-administered extensions
  • When used up, need permission “from the Dean”
• Try to avoid negotiating special cases
Tip #3: Be enthusiastic and kind to your students
Tip #4: Protect your time

• Carve out time for course preparation, office hours, etc.
• Invest in mentoring your TAs and giving them good guidance
• Beware of diminishing returns
Tip #5: Assess and evolve

• Make notes after class about what went well and what could have gone better
• Get periodic student feedback from student and colleagues
• Choose a few things to work on – don’t try to do everything always all the time
• Reflect on formal course evaluations but be kind to yourself
Small Group Conversation:

Think about a course that made a strong positive impact on you as a student. What aspects of the teaching of this course were particularly effective?