

MSU Psychology - Teaching Brown Bag Fall 2018

Organized by Dr. Jonathan Weaver (Assistant Professor) and Rachael Goodman-Williams (M.A., Ecological-Community Doctoral Student)

This brown bag series is geared towards graduate students at MSU looking to highlight their value as an instructor on the academic job market and explore pedagogical strategies to utilize in future courses. The series is also open to faculty interested in helping their students prepare for the job market.

September 12th (12:30pm – 1:30pm in PSY 230)

Crafting the perfect teaching statement / philosophy and how to demonstrate teaching competency in application materials. Teaching statements / philosophies are important for all higher-education jobs. Even research-focused jobs are looking for applicants with strong teaching backgrounds – because of the competitive market and focus on increasing undergraduate graduation rates. Writing about the kind of teacher you want to be, or why you want to teach in a particular way, is acceptable. However, hiring committees look for implemented changes within the classroom and the outcomes for those changes. So... what if you have never taught your own course, or lab section, before? Well, there are other ways to present and show off your teaching skills! This brown bag will offer tips for how to do that, and more.

September 26th (12:30pm – 1:30pm in PSY 230)

What is a diversity statement? What goes into a diversity statement? Most institutions now require you to submit this kind of document. You may get specific instructions for things to be included, while others will give no direction at all. So, really, what should you put in there? Should these be tailored to every application you submit? Or, how do you write a diversity statement if you are not working with diverse populations? Should you include your story of overcoming obstacles to get to where you currently are in your career? Or, should you acknowledge your privilege? This brown bag will offer practical advice for creating a statement that not only demonstrates your willingness to enhance the institution's diversity and equity efforts, but also how to convey that commitment to the hiring committee.

October 31st (12:30pm – 1:30pm in PSY 230)

Teaching large lectures can be frightening, which means the discussion topic of how to engage a large group of students is perfect on Halloween. Most graduate students will never teach a full semester course that has more than 30-50 students, so what should they expect when they teach large lectures? What are ways to keep the students actively engaged without burning yourself out? Where should you focus your energy to maximize your positive impact in a large lecture? This brown bag will offer tips for how to best channel your energy in large lectures, and focus on how to make yourself marketable in ways that demonstrates your ability to teach large lectures.

November 14th or 28th (12:30pm – 1:30pm in PSY 230)*

*Date and time may change depending on panelist availability.

A panel of guest speakers will talk about insights into crafting cover letters / teaching statements for liberal arts positions, what to expect when you get a job at teaching-focused institutions, and more.