

Federal University of Viçosa, Minas Gerais



Since 1958, the university has been a pioneer in research and teaching in the areas of agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry.



Being a pioneer in research and teaching in the areas of agriculture, forestry, and animal husbandry.



Designed with local environmental characteristics.

Lesson 1: Syllabus as teaching tool

Exploring the rationale of the content and selection materials:

- my syllabus is my approach - what courses are there?
- why these books/resources in that order?

How is the positioning of the syllabus as students learn to learn, and how can we use this to design?



Lesson 2: The University as Teaching Tool

How do students experience the university?

- what is the role of the university?
- what are the different ways of learning and teaching?
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Benefits of Comparative Perspective

Students learn to appreciate the value of different perspectives.

The ability to compare and contrast different perspectives.



The Ethnography of the University in Brazil

*Gina Hunter, SOA
CTLT Symposium 2016*

Federal University of Viçosa, Minas Gerais



Short-Course on anthropology
of higher ed and ethnographic
methods for undergraduate and
graduate students

Teaching ethnographic
methods via student research
on their own university

Designed course with local
resources and texts in
Portuguese



Lesson 1: Syllabus as teaching tool

Explaining the rationale or the course and selected materials:

- my syllabus is my approach - what others are there?
- why those texts/exercises in that order?

Recursive questioning of the syllabus as students learn

- fosters critical perspective
- opens dialogue



Lesson 2: The University as Teaching Tool

Do my students understand:

- why my course is required? elective?
- what is General Education?
- what the difference is between a community college and a four-year comprehensive university?

How might this understanding

- impact their engagement with the course?
- understand larger context of their undergraduate experience?

Benefits of Comparative Perspective

National contexts (eg expansion vs restriction of higher ed)

Disciplinary trajectories (strong vs weak disciplinary boundaries)



Federal University of Viçosa, Minas Gerais



Since 1988, the university has been a pioneer in the development of a network of teaching, research and extension centers.

Teaching, research, extension and social services are the four pillars of the university.

The university is a federal institution of higher education.




Lesson 1: Syllabus as teaching tool

Explaining the rationale of the curriculum, syllabus and its components:

- why syllabus is important?
- why syllabus is a teaching tool?
- why syllabus is a learning tool?

Encourage questioning of the syllabus as students learn:

- from a critical perspective
- from a dialogical



Lesson 2: The University as Teaching Tool

Encourage questioning of the university as a teaching tool:

- why university is important?
- why university is a teaching tool?
- why university is a learning tool?

Encourage questioning of the university as students learn:

- from a critical perspective
- from a dialogical

Benefits of Comparative Perspective

Systemic, integrative, transdisciplinary and holistic.

Theory, practice, research and design are intertwined.



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