Creating a Natural Critical Learning Environment in Your Classroom

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Psychology

Tuesday, April 16 • 1:30–2:30 p.m.
OR
Wednesday, April 17 • 3:30–4:30 p.m.
Room 50 Milton Hall

According to Dr. Ken Bain, author of What the Best College Teachers Do, outstanding teachers create a natural critical learning environment that:

1. Begins with a question that students find inherently interesting, important, or beautiful;
2. Places that question in a larger context;
3. Engages students to argue for an answer by doing the discipline before they fully know the discipline;
4. Helps students answer the question by collaborating with other learners;
5. Allows students to try, fail, receive feedback, and try again before anyone judges their work; and
6. Leaves students with more questions.

If you would like to integrate these principles into your courses but are unsure where or how to begin, join us for this open conversation. Together, we'll explore techniques and resources that help you build some or all of the characteristics of the best college teachers into your classroom.

Laura Madson, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at NMSU. She attended Dr. Bain’s three-day Best Teachers Summer Institute in June 2012. When she isn’t teaching or wrangling her two sons (ages 5 and 6), she runs, reads, and listens to Jimmy Buffett.

Registration is required at teaching.nmsu.edu. If you have problems registering online, call 646–2204 for help.