

The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

Friday, November 17, 2017

Scheduling a Course in the Active Learning Classrooms

The sounds emanating from the new classrooms currently under construction in Hiemenga Hall (HH334 and HH336) make me eager to peek inside. When complete, these classrooms, along with the Sandbox classroom, offer support to faculty for enhancing their use of active learning strategies. Easily repositioned tables and chairs make it simple for students to break into working groups. A mobile teacher's station and Creston projection technology allow a faculty member to teach from anywhere in the room and to project content on three of the classroom's walls. Students will be able to share their ideas with classmates by projecting content from their own devices or by making use of the writeable surfaces on three of the walls.

These classrooms in Hiemenga Hall are the first fruit of a Capital Campaign initiative to update classrooms across campus, and the college is developing a process for scheduling these classrooms along with other classrooms. To start that process, we would like to create a list of instructors who are interested in making use of the active learning features of these classrooms. Faculty will soon receive an email that invites interested faculty to state their interest in teaching in these classrooms by December 10. After this deadline, the classroom committee will create a tentative class schedule for the rooms and communicate that schedule to faculty, department chairs, and department assistants.

The process of creating the schedule of classes requires the cooperation of many people. Interested faculty can facilitate the process by talking to their department chair about their interest in teaching in one of these rooms and by including both their department chair and their department assistant in their response to the invitation.

Prioritization criteria will include the following:

1. **Pedagogy** – Use of the classroom's features to enhance student learning
2. **Class size** – An enrollment that makes good use of the room's capacity
3. **Mobile Technology** – The instructor's ability to teach in a mobile ready classroom (laptop or mobile device) *HH 334 & 336 criteria only
4. **Previous Candidate** – The instructor's previous experience teaching in the room
5. **Proximity to the instructor's department**
6. **Flip a coin** – tie breaker

Special thanks to the physical plant staff who have worked hard to renovate these classrooms and to the staff, faculty, and students in Hiemenga Hall who have endured a season of construction noises and disruptions. It will be good to see these classrooms put to good use.

Elizabeth Vander Lei, academic dean

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- Kristine Johnson (English), "Affirming Agency: Directed Self-Placement for International Students" (lecture, Michigan College English Association, Ypsilanti, Michigan, October 27, 2017).
- Mark Bjelland (Geology, Geography, and Environmental Studies), *Introduction to Geography, 15th edition* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2017).
- Matt Halteman (Philosophy), "Who Cares about Animals?! Animal Ethics in Theory and Practice" (lecture, Food Systems and Ethics Seminar, Burlington, Vermont, October 2, 2017).

Be sure to [fill out](#) your Faculty Activity Reports regularly. If you have questions, see the [FAQ page](#).

Note: FEN activities are called Intercultural Competency Professional Development Activities and are reported via [this link](#). Contact diversity@calvin.edu if you have questions.

Suicide Prevention Training

Faculty members often find themselves on the front lines of supporting students in emotional distress. Because of this, faculty can sometimes be the first to detect suicide risk in students who are feeling overwhelmed and hopeless.

In order to support you in this aspect of your work, the Center for Counseling and Wellness is sponsoring a QPR suicide prevention training for all Calvin faculty and staff. QPR training provides hands-on, practical training in suicide assessment. Participants will gain a clear understanding of how to assess the safety of a student who may be suicidal, as well as how to make a referral for professional follow-up. A handbook will be provided.

We will meet on Tuesday, November 28th, 3:30–5:00pm, in the Meeter Center Lecture Hall. To attend, please RSVP to the Center for Counseling and Wellness (counseling@calvin.edu or 616-526-6123). Questions can be directed to Dr. Irene Kraegel (ibk2@calvin.edu or 616-526-7016). Hope to see you there!

Coming Up on Campus

Monday, November 20

- Chapel. Tarence Lauchie (Grace for the Nations Church), “Thanksgiving.” 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Tuesday, November 21

- Chapel. Taizé with Karen Saupe and Debra Rienstra. 10:00 a.m., Chapel

Wednesday–Friday, November 22–24

- Thanksgiving break (Wednesday: campus open, but no classes; Thursday–Friday: campus closed)

Monday, November 27

- Chapel. Amanda Benckhuysen (Calvin Seminary). Advent. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood drive. 12:00 noon–7:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft

Tuesday, November 28

- Chapel. Taizé with Karen Saupe and Debra Rienstra. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood drive. 12:00 noon–7:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Physics seminar. Joshua Veazey (Grand Valley State U), “Sketching with Nano Probes: Device Creation at Oxide Interfaces and in Multiferroics.” 3:45 p.m., SB 110
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280

Wednesday, November 29

- Chapel. Faith Storytelling with Pastor Mary and Chris Hartemink. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood drive. 12:00 noon–7:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft

Thursday, November 30

- Chapel. Sounds of American Folk worship. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Blood drive. 12:00 noon–7:00 p.m., Chapel Undercroft
- Education Program Forum. Clarence Joldersma, “Stealing an Education.” [Register here](#). 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center Lecture Hall

Friday, December 1

- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Christian Perspectives in Science seminar. Clay Carlson (Trinity College), “Patristics, Genomics, and Finding God in the Cell.” 3:30 p.m., SB 110