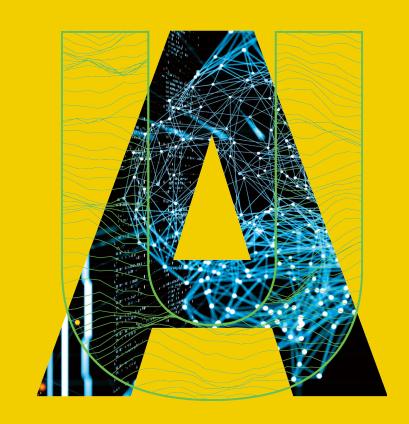
Festival of Teaching and Learning 2023

Embracing International Student Learners

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English Language School (ELS)

The ELS advocates for international students beyond the language classroom.



Let's look at that last quote again:

"Nobody knows I am an international student."

Does it matter?

(How) do you identify international students?

Traditions that need to be reimagined

Traditionally: We don't have time to learn names, identify students' backgrounds, embrace cultural differences and encourage discussion.

Traditionally: We may think this is Canada, you are learning in Canada, you need to adapt to the Canadian culture and academic culture.

Traditionally: International Student Services (ISS) has ushered international students throughout their time at the U of A alone.

Reimagine!

- Take little steps to embrace diversity
- "Humanize" the classroom
- Involve local students in the process
- Create a more inclusive classroom
- We all take part in embracing a globalized perspective

Where international students struggle

The main themes or categories where international students struggle are:

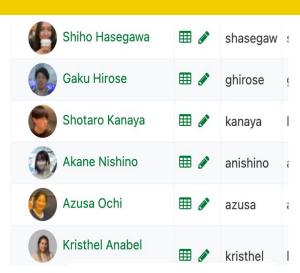
- a. Intercultural communication
- b. Canadian academic culture
- c. Learning and studying strategies
- d. Managing challenges
- e. Critical thinking
- f. Identifying and developing transferable skills

Intercultural Communication



Intercultural Communication: Getting to Know Each Other

- Update eClass profile
- Model email signature and name
- Invite international students to identify themselves using mentimeter
- Draw on students' cultural perspectives





Intercultural Communication: Working Together

- Provide clear guidelines on how to participate in group work or a collaborative task
- Create opportunities for all students to interact in and outside classroom
 - preassign study groups
- Emphasize the importance of communication
 - Introduce a 'Communication minute'
- Help build a learning community in your classroom

Canadian Academic Culture



Canadian Academic Culture

- Strategically use the course outline
 - Include the land acknowledgement with a personal and explicit rationale for why we say it
- Draw attention to academic integrity
- Use the U of A Library wisely
- Model Respect shared responsibility

Learning and Studying Strategies



Learning and Studying Strategies: Time Management

- Model project management skills
 - Use the calendar
 - Divide tasks into smaller chunks
 - Provide approximate work time for assignment completion
 - Provide countdown to major assignments (days)
 - Offer suggested weekly reading amount (pg/units)

Learning and Studying Strategies: Academic Skills

- Acknowledge reading comprehension is an issue
- Create a reading culture
- Encourage note-taking and retrieval practice
- Guide students through writing process

Critical Thinking



Critical Thinking

- Emphasize importance of current events
- Facilitate inquiry
- Support reflective writing
- Identify biases
- Scaffold/model critical questions

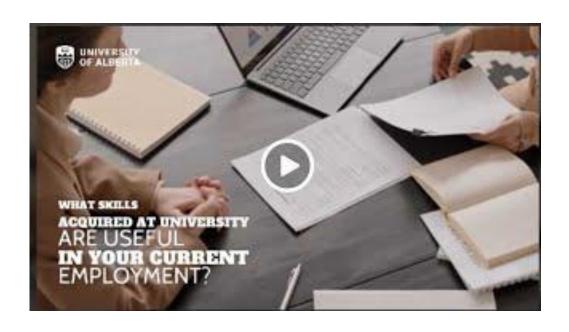
Managing Challenges



Managing Challenges

- Recognize struggling students
- Pay attention and point out U of A services
- Identify exam strategies and tips as you are teaching

Transferable Skills



Transferable Skills

- Identify the acquired skills
- Show and encourage students to identify connections
- Feedback
- Model organization
- Provide portfolio-building opportunities
- Identify the take-aways

Conclusion



Useful Links:

English Language School

EAP 137 Academic and Intercultural Communications

If you identify international students who are struggling, you can suggest they take this credit course to help them adjust to Canadian academic culture.

Data collection: Mentimeter

Name pronunciation: Namedrop

Avatar: Bitmoji

Randomizer tool: Pickerwheel



Thank you