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TEACHING TIP SHEET

Teaching Resources @ <http://www.sheridan-center.stg.brown.edu/>

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Without stepping out of one's dwelling, one can know the whole world. — Laozi XLVII
This quotation from the Laozi, a mystical text attributed to a rival of the ancient Chinese philosopher Confucius, describes the perspicacity that a sage ideally possesses. Given the recent light-speed advances of the Internet and the concomitant burgeoning of World Wide Web sites, it appears increasingly possible for us to realize the Laozi's ideal of a sage, at least in this regard. While few of us may aspire to become sages, most of us are undoubtedly grateful for the ease of information access that the web allows.

One of my responsibilities as a new Associate Director at the Sheridan Center is to familiarize myself with the Center's web site. I am delighted to be able to share with you some of the gems that I have discovered and will focus on several outstanding resources for teaching.

Developing a Syllabus for a New Course?

Utilize the on-line interactive [The Syllabus Workshop](#), designed for the Center by Michael J. V. Woolcock, Ph. D.. It helps you construct a syllabus that effectively communicates course goals and objectives. The workshop first leads you in examining four syllabi taken from each of the major academic divisions and reflecting on their effectiveness. It then allows you to adapt the Center's [Master Syllabus Form](#) to your own needs, all the while prompting you to think through how best to articulate your course goals and objectives. While perhaps most obviously of use when developing a new syllabus, this workshop also helps

one to reflect on the effectiveness of existing syllabi. In addition, be sure to consult the on-line version of the handbook "[Constructing a Syllabus](#)", also by Woolcock. Like the interactive workshop described above, this handbook is designed to facilitate critical thinking about syllabus development.

How Do Different Learning Styles Affect Your Classroom?

Take a look at the [Teaching to Variation in Learning Workshop](#) created by Professor Brian Hayden. This workshop contains a series of simple exercises designed to help you understand your own learning style and to gain a heightened awareness of the wide variety of ways in which your students learn, with the ultimate goal of prompting you to devise pedagogical strategies that reach the broadest possible number of students. At present, the workshop can be downloaded only on to Macintosh computers, but the Center expects to make it accessible to PC users soon. In the meantime, both Mac and PC users can utilize the on-line handbook version of the handbook "[Teaching to Variation in Learning](#)", also by Hayden.

Can You Benefit from Your Colleagues' Teaching Expertise?

Explore [Teaching Tip Articles](#), which contains examples of strategies and techniques that Brown faculty have developed to improve their teaching effectiveness. Professor John Tyler's guidelines for assessing class participation constitute an example of the kinds of topics addressed in this category.

Are You Creating a Course Web Site?

Make sure you look at [Web Resources for Effective Teaching and Learning](#). This is a veritable gold mine of useful information about course Web resources. The numerous links provided here allow you to access materials of use in developing course web sites and enable you to clarify copyright and fair use issues for electronic materials.

Will Your Students Be Using the Web?

[Web Resources for Effective Teaching and Learning](#), discussed in the section above, also contains links to resources that will help you teach your students to use Web sites discriminately and cite Internet sources correctly.

Are You a New Faculty Member?

Explore the [Web Resources for New Faculty](#). This page, added to the Center Web site just this summer, was designed to provide easy "one-stop shopping" for new colleagues who

undoubtedly have all kinds of questions about teaching at Brown. Topics dealt with in this section include new faculty orientation, university guidelines for teaching, the Brown curriculum and instructional issues.

Where Are the Resources Described Above?

Look on the Center web site under [Services](#) for the interactive pedagogical workshops, "Teaching Tips Articles," "Web Resources for Effective Teaching and Learning" and "Web Resources for New Faculty." On-line versions of the handbooks "Constructing a Syllabus" and "Teaching to Variation in Learning" can be found under the category of [Publications](#).