

Wisconsin Teaching Fellows SoTL Research



Wednesday, April 26, 2017
12:00 – 12:50 p.m.
Faculty/Staff Lounge, WYLL 247

Jenny Keefe: Wisconsin Teaching Scholar **Personal Reflections and Philosophical Performance**

My project concerns my General Education class PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy. Some students go on to become Philosophy majors and minors but, for the majority of my students, this is their only college class in philosophy. Also, this is one of the classes at my University that has a relatively high DFW rate. Hence, my motivation was twofold:

- 1.) Consider methods to increase engagement with philosophy
- 2.) Examine ways to enhance student performance

At the completion of the study the following areas warrant further analysis:

- Further qualitative analysis of the student's specific answers and the connection to their performance
- Future analysis of whether intervention correlates with students' engagement with philosophy (via pre and post class survey) rather than performance
- Are the ways to change the writing assignment, which would make it more effective?

Farida Khan: Wisconsin Teaching Scholar **Teaching Fiscal Policy at the Introductory Level**

My experience is that students have a difficult time understanding fiscal policy because of the mathematics involved in the underlying theory/model on which such policy considerations are based.

Following the suggestions of various scholars I had the students write a structured paper on fiscal policy using current data and answering specific questions in that paper. In order to do this, I also reduced some of the more complex mathematical formulations of the theory portion of the class.

Specifically I want to know if students know the language regarding fiscal policy (economic literacy), whether they understand the theory behind why economies have recessions and how fiscal policy can, in theory, alleviate the problem, and finally whether they are able to calculate the size of a fiscal stimulus needed during a recession and its affect on the government's budget.

My finding is that structured paper on fiscal policy is something that has helped students in the classroom. They had many positive comments about their experience.

This event is sponsored by the Teaching & Learning Center. The SoTL projects were developed through the OPID Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars program.