Teaching as Service to God

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Abstract:

I cannot see God but I can see my students – one of His beautiful creations. Therefore teaching, for me, is service to God which I try to accomplish by incorporating Ignatian values (*Finding God in Each and Everything and Magis*) in my teaching. My course is a basic science course involving a lot of calculations requiring no field or role playing activity. Incorporating Ignatian values in such a course is a challenge. The activities mentioned here can be used as an One Creighton model for incorporating Ignatian values in teaching.

The slide used during orientation

A non-graded quiz is sent before start of semester and solution with IOR's comments are posted in the course web site at the second day of class. The performance in this quiz provides students what background information they are missing and they must review to succeed in this course. Moreover, it also indicates what to come in this course so that they will not feel any topic presented as a surprise or out of the blue. Thus, "PHA 317 Get to Know Quiz" is an example of instructional tool helping students in assuming responsibility for their own learning.

PHA 317 Get to Know Quiz

Solutions and my comments

1 of 30
A sample of calcium nitrate, $Ca(NO_3)_2$, with a formula weight of 164 g/mol, has 4.00×10^{27} atoms of oxygen. How many kilograms of $Ca(NO_3)_2$ are present?
a. 125.765 kg
b. 41.789 kg
c. 18.152 kg
d. 181.526 kg

IF choice d. is selected Set score to 1 Correct

Solution:

It is clear from the molecular formula of calcium nitrate that each of its molecules contains 6 atoms of oxygen. Therefore, 4.00×10^{27} atoms of oxygen indicate 0.667×10^{27} [$(4.00 \times 10^{27})/6 = 0.667 \times 10^{27}$] molecules of calcium nitrate Now, recall your concept of Avogadro number which tells that 1 mole of any compound contains its 6.023×10^{23} molecules

Hence, 0.667×10^{27} molecules of calcium nitrate is equivalent to its 0.11068×10^{4} moles which would be equal to $0.11068 \times 10^{4} \times 164$ g = 181508.22 g = 181.508 Kg

Comments: Concept of mole and Avogadro number will be frequently used in this course. So, if you missed this question please review it from you undergraduate text books. You should also memorize atomic weights 1 through 30.

2 of 30
In diffusion, molecules move from a region of high concentration to a region of lower concentration due to random molecular motion.
a. false
b. true

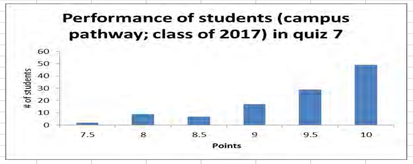
IF choice b. is selected Set score to 1 Correct

Comments:

You will study about the physical parameters controlling the access of drugs to its site of action. Diffusion is one of them. If you miss this question, don't worry because I will cover it in detail

The following report is provided to students which shows the class-performance in a particular quiz/exam which allow them to measure their relative achievement and take charge of their own learning:

Performance of students (campus pathway; class of 2017) in quiz 7			
Points	# of students	Grades	% of class
7.5	2	A	84
8	9	B+	6
8.5	7	B	8
9	17	C+	2
9.5	29		
10	49		
Total	113		



Every Friday 4-5 pm there is virtual office hr where anyone can ask any question. I solve the numerical practice problem by inking of tablet which the distance students can see instantaneously. These sessions are recorded too for viewing later on one's convenient time. The following table shows the usage report of such recordings:

Recorded Training Access Summary Report

You can sort results by clicking on the column headers. Search again | Printer-friendly format | Export Report

Search results from 10/31/13 to 1/6/14 :

All sessions in Central Standard Time (Chicago, GMT-06:00)

Topic	Upload date	Upload time	Registered	Download	Viewed	Fee
Biomaterials: Class on Wednesday (Nov. 13)-20131113 1905-1	11/13/13	1:58 pm	N/A	0	63	Free
Biomaterials: class on Monday (Nov. 11)-20131111 1903-1	11/11/13	1:59 pm	N/A	0	56	Free
PHA 317: Meeting with IOR-20130830 2103-1	8/30/13	4:45 pm	N/A	0	1	Free
PHA 317: Meeting with IOR-20130906 2103-1	9/6/13	4:52 pm	N/A	0	1	Free
PHA 317: Meeting with IOR-20130920 2102-1	9/20/13	6:06 pm	N/A	0	1	Free
PHA 317: Meeting with IOR-20131004 2104-1	10/4/13	4:28 pm	N/A	0	1	Free
PHA 317: Meeting with IOR-20131025 2100-1	10/25/13	4:36 pm	N/A	0	22	Free
PHA 317: Meeting with IOR-20131101 2108-1	11/1/13	4:55 pm	N/A	0	59	Free
PHA 317: Meeting with IOR-20131206 2200-1	12/6/13	4:16 pm	N/A	0	16	Free

A blue Q survey link is sent in email using which anyone can ask any question or provide feedback annonymously on that day's class as shown below. I post my response in a designated place in blueline:

Students' oral presentation is evaluated by their peers using a blue Q link such as https://blueq.creighton.edu/distribute/DistributeDashboard.aspx?pid=29301331&gid=1186918015. This imparts professionalism in students and a great sense of participation in evaluation process.

PHA 317: link for class on Nov. 25

Singh, Somnath
Sent: Mon 11/25/2013 12:30 PM
To: Mohapatra, Sarat; SPAHPStuRx2017Campus; SPAHPStuRx2017Distance

https://www.blueq-surveys.creighton.edu/se.ashx?s=46BEEE7F516106DA

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PHA 317: Class on 11/25

1. What did not go well in today's class?

2. Any question(s)? I will post my response in PHA 317 course web site.

3. What did go well in today's class?

Submit Survey

Powered by Verint. Publish your own web survey today

Students' comments:

I just wanted to take this time to thank you for everything that you have done for us students. I truly believe that you are the most helpful professor that I have ever had and I feel that you genuinely care about your students. It is sadly, somewhat rare to see so much passion and dedication from a professor, and I wanted you to know that.

I really appreciate that you provided so many opportunities for students to ask questions and all of your supplemental class documents and materials were especially helpful. I have never had so many opportunities and encouragement to ask questions freely. I also appreciate that you allow us to use those surveys to ask questions anonymously - this encourages questions and has allowed me to ask you questions when I need, and I do not ever feel stupid for asking these questions because you are so kind and patient to answer our questions or concerns. I am usually very shy to ask out loud in class and by doing these surveys, you helped answer any questions I had.

I have learned a great deal from you Dr. Singh and had a lot of fun learning this difficult material from such a driven professor.

There needs to be more professors like you and I wish you a Merry Christmas and happy break with your family. I hope I will have the chance to learn from you in the future and future students are definitely lucky to have you teaching them.
Thank you for all you have done for us this semester. You are a great teacher with a kind heart and an unselfish spirit. The extra time you took to help us succeed did not go unnoticed. It was appreciated by all. We are going to miss you next semester.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a great New Year!!

I did better because I really do not want to disappoint myself, my wife, my two children, and you. You did not hestitate in agreeing to see me when I reached out to you. You immediately scheduled a meeting to hear my concern. You listened and gave me constructive advices on how to approach your exam, the essay part. I have never have a caring professor like you before. You are truly a great teacher and I am very grateful for your guidance!

I just wanted to say thank you for your hard work and dedication this semester. You are by far the most caring and dedicated professor I've had so far in my experience as a student. Many of my classmates have expressed the same sentiments. Your hard work doesn't go unnoticed and is certainly appreciated!
I hope you and your family have a happy holiday and a wonderful new year!

I also wanted to take a moment to thank you for the way that you have been instructing this course. Although I am not getting a good grade and am extremely nervous about the final I really appreciate your sincerity to each of us. I feel that you make it a point to help anytime that you can, you make yourself available to us for any questions or concerns, and you thoroughly explain and answer our questions when we have them. You have proven to be an exceptional instructor that really cares about each of his students and are willing to go above and beyond to do anything possible to help your students learn. I really appreciate that, and am very grateful that I have had the opportunity to be a student of such a caring instructor.

I hope that you have a great Thanksgiving surrounded with love, gratitude, and family.

First, I wanted to thank you for a wonderful semester. It was amazing to have a professor so dedicated to teaching and to the success of his students. Second, I wanted to thank you for all the quizzes and exams we had. In the beginning of the semester you told us that students usually thank you for them at the end of the semester, and quite frankly, during the semester I did not see how. But I definitely saw why it was helpful on Wednesday and Thursday! It was never so easy for me to study so much material before. Pharmaceutics is the hardest subject I am taking this semester and yet it was the easiest to study for!

Sponsored by the Creighton University Jesuit Community, in association with the Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality.