

2A: Planning the First Day

Chad Bauman, PhD, Associate Professor of Religion, Chair of the Dept. of Philosophy, Religion & Classics, Butler University [00:00:06] I think it's really important to get into the classroom before the semester begins.

Chad Bauman, PhD [00:00:13] But I actually always want to see the physical space. There are issues that come up, sometimes. You may get into a room and realize that it's just not going to work for one reason or another. Sometimes you have a class that's almost entirely discussion and you find yourself in a room of not very mobile chairs. You know, hopefully if that is the case, you can find a way to get your classroom moved.

Lori Ogden, PhD, Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, West Virginia University [00:00:32] I always check out the classroom before the first day, you know, kind of get a feel for the way the class is set up, as that can also dictate some of the activities that I plan to do.

David Beach, PhD, Associate Undergraduate Writing Coordinator, Department of English, West Virginia University [00:00:44] It's important to go to the classroom to see what kinds of technology are available, to see if the technology works and if it doesn't work, to get in touch with the IT people to make sure that it is functioning properly.

Lori Ogden, PhD [00:00:54] You know, if I'm going to be using a chalkboard or an overhead or some kind of document camera, make sure that things are working. You know, a lot of things on campus require codes to access. Make sure I have all the right codes.

Tara Lineweaver, PhD, Professor, Department of Psychology, Butler University [00:01:08] I actually use a lot of different-colored markers, and in fact, our department secretary buys me a new set of markers every semester because I find that it is very important to organize the information I am writing on the board in the way that they should organize it. I find that color coding information really helps them link the right information together.

Chad Bauman, PhD [00:01:30] I usually send the syllabus out actually before the semester begins. I send it to everyone who's enrolled in the course and then I send an email and I say, look, here's the syllabus, it's also on Moodle, I'd really like you to see it and read it carefully before the first class.

Chad Bauman, PhD [00:01:48] There's a lot of value for me in having an outline for the first class. I always have PowerPoints, even for that first class, even if it says, we're going to get to know each other and step one, you know, and we're going to learn each other's names.

David Beach, PhD [00:02:05] Dress professionally in appearance. Have a professional demeanor as well.

Chad Bauman, PhD [00:02:09] I actually do put a fair amount of thought into what I wear. I want to demonstrate a certain kind of seriousness at the beginning of the semester. My students will tell you that I'm dressed far more formally in the first weeks of class, and then I tend to sort of become more and more casual.

David Beach, PhD [00:02:24] You have to be conscious about projecting a good demeanor, a friendly demeanor, and that you want to be there.