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## SFSU Writing Program

October 29th, 2018

### Highlights

Hi Folks,

Some highlights from last week:

We had a great conversation about teachers' work routines in the Eli Review Learning Circle, including strategies for managing the time it takes to give meaningful feedback to student writers. You can listen to the discussion [here](#). One thing I took from the discussion was [this book and website](#), on creating meaningful assignments.

In case you missed last week's workshop on helping students in crisis:

- The [Dean on Call](#) program meets individually with students in crisis to help them find the resources they need;
- [Counseling and Psychology Services](#) will coach teachers in how to talk to students experiencing emotional difficulties.

Our Area E course proposal is finished. Many, many thanks to all of you who have worked on 214 over the years; your work provided the basis for our proposal. Our Area E course will be English 216. The proposal and supporting documents can be found [here](#).

I am now working on a course revision proposal for Area A2 (114, 104-05), and always, I welcome your input. If you have assignments or a course sequence that meets our new SLOs for 104/05 or 114, please send them my way.

Check out Episode 2 of the Writing Program's Professional Development Podcast Series: *This Is Writing: Folio Thinking With Crystal Wong*. You can listen to *This is Writing* on our [Portfolio](#) page,

CSU has published descriptions of redesigned courses across disciplines and campuses. You can read about these courses [here](#). Scroll down through the list to find redesigned writing courses across the CSU.

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All the best,  
Jennifer

## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday Oct 31 11:00 am:

Digital Writing LC meeting, HUM 481

### Friday, Nov 2 10:00 am:

Positive Nudging using Peer Norms and Solid Students with the Eli Review Learning Circle. Click on [this link](#) to participate in this Zoom webinar.

### Friday Nov 2 and 3rd:

FREE UC Merced [Writing Program Conference](#) on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### Monday November 5, 2:00 pm:

CSL Learning Circle: "CSL Course Design and Grant Application Advice." HUM 484 and via Zoom

### Tuesday November 6, 2:00pm:

AT and CEETL invite you to a Student Centered Design in iLearn workshop. Please register [here](#).

### Thursday November 8, 3:30 pm:

Join us for a discussion on equity and inclusion with Metro Academy's Landon Smith HUM 485

### Wednesday November 14, time TBD:

How To Teach Digital Writing: Come Share and Get Ideas,

### Wednesday November 28, time TBD:

Digital Writing Roundtable Discussion

### Date TBD:

Developing Students' Purpose in College and Beyond (with Orlando

## In the Classroom

by Amy Love



Although cell phones can be effective tools in the classroom, they are devastatingly distracting for both teachers and students, impeding concentration and learning. Despite my strict cell phone ban, every semester, I watched in frustration as students texted, scrolled through websites and occasionally even took calls.

Compliance with the ban went up and my blood pressure went down when I switched to using a welcome table.

Here's how it works: When students walk in to class, they go to a small table where they can initial the class roster, pick up the day's handouts, drop off homework, and surrender their phones for extra credit. The extra credit points are negligible, yet most students take up this offer and many thank me for helping them concentrate.

This positive reinforcement is more effective than the punitive ban because it gives students agency and choice, allowing them to voluntarily make a commitment to distraction-free learning. And it is a visible, physical cue to students as they walk in: seeing the pile of cell phones on the table sends a positive message about the value of our shared time in class.

I've had almost no problems with this policy, and I find I'm more relaxed in the classroom, no

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Harris, Director of Career Services and Leadership Development)

**December 1, 9:00-3:00pm:**

Bay Area Writing Project Forum: What Do We Mean by "Critical Thinking"? UC Berkeley

**Friday December 21, 9:00am-12:00pm:**

End-of-term Retreat

phone. I have to thank Maryellen Weimer, Ph.D., of *Faculty Focus*, for these ideas. You can subscribe to this free newsletter at [facultyfocus.com/about](https://facultyfocus.com/about)

*If you've got a teaching idea you'd like to share, please contact Jennifer Trainor.*



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