Humor

Introduction

Humor can do much to enhance the classroom environment, reduce stress, increase student interest and attentiveness, and even promote long-term recall. The articles and websites below offer research, guidelines, and examples of humor in the college classroom, online courses, and "dread courses" such as statistics. The final two sites provide information on a society for humor studies and a source for college humor.

General Resources

The author argues for the use of humor as a pedagogical tool that enhances learning and creates a more positive classroom atmosphere. Analogy and metaphor improve understanding and retention of material.
http://www.radicalpedagogy.org/ [1]

Cites research demonstrating that humor helps students learn.

Explains ways in which humor can be added to online courses and offers guidelines for selecting appropriate humor for achieving instructional objectives. Discusses resources for locating pedagogical humor online, writing it yourself, and using it in the course.
http://www.radicalpedagogy.org/ [1]

Reviews a research study by Mark Shatz and Frank LoSciavo that found the use of humor in an online course boosted student enjoyment and participation in discussion boards.

"Using Humor in the College Classroom to Enhance Teaching Effectiveness in 'Dread Courses'," Neelam Kher,
Presents various opportunities to incorporate humor in the classroom, research linking humor and learning outcomes, and guidelines for appropriate use of humor. Appendices provide examples of three forms of humor described in the article.


The International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) is "dedicated to the advancement of humor research." Their website is rich with materials and resources although many of them are password protected for Society members only. Provides links to numerous scholarly societies, research centers, and archives focused on the study and application of humor research.

College Humor.
Links to dozens of jokes, essays, and funny scenarios about college life as a student or professor.

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