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CeTEAL, Coastal Carolina University

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CeTEAL

Center for Teaching Excellence to Advance Learning

News

Discover! Kimbel

Searching Kimbel Library for information resources is now easier than ever with the new Discover! service implemented by Kimbel's tech services department. Discover what Discover! can do for you.

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Why try Moodle?

The Moodle course management system offers some excellent user-friendly features you may want to explore. Check out the top 10 reasons to try Moodle, and maybe you'll want to use Moodle for your next course.

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Free Technology

Expand your tech skills, bring variety into your teaching, and stimulate your students' creativity with innovative technologies that are free and easy to use. Learn more about the programs CeTEAL staff members recommend.

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Understanding QM

CCU is a Quality Matters subscribing institution. Find out more about the underlying principles of the QM program in part one of our series "Understanding Quality Matters."

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Turnitin Pilot

Turnitin is an advanced plagiarism detection program used to review student writing for originality and to assist in grading. CCU is piloting Turnitin this semester, and we need faculty feedback on the program. Find out how to get involved.

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Contact CeTEAL

Would you like to suggest a class, ask a question, or make an appointment with a CeTEAL staff member? We would love to hear from you. Use the CeTEAL website to contact us.

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Contingency Instruction: Are you prepared?

Resources to help you develop a plan

Coastal Carolina University has a new website designed to assist faculty in developing a contingency plan for instruction when regular classroom teaching is not an option. Several potential situations--flu epidemic, hurricane damage, building closures, or long-term illness--might prevent students and faculty from gathering in their normal classrooms. When the physical classroom is not an option, how can we continue to conduct our classes so we do not lose valuable teaching time? How do we provide comparable course content, activities, and assessments? How do we communicate with our students?



Faculty Spotlight: Cynthia Storer

Cynthia Storer, former CIA intelligence analyst, is a lecturer in the Department of Politics and Geography. **Page 2.**

In order to help faculty consider these questions, the new ContingencyInstruction website provides information on available resources and suggested options. Advanced planning is key to successful continuity of instruction, and the new site can help you get started.

To learn more, visit: <http://libguides.coastal.edu/contingency> or contact ceteal@coastal.edu.

Experiential Learning: Get Students Involved

Experiential Learning is expanding across the CCU campus. Get your students involved!

The Experiential Learning Office is expanding its resources for students. Please share the sites below with your classes. The ELO will be posting courses, quotes, testimonials and additional information to get students interested in the "Q" courses.



The ELO is working toward highlighting students' success stories as well as personal experiences from their reflective essays of their "Q" Courses. Please make note of these students, as there will be an email sent to faculty members requesting this information.

Visit the [ELO official website](#) for more information. Also find us at ExpCoastal on Twitter or our [Facebook Page!](#)

If you are interested in facilitating a "Q" Course please contact experienced@coastal.edu.

Faculty Spotlight: Cynthia Storer

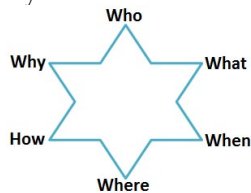
by Cynthia Storer

I bring into my classrooms critical thinking methods used by analysts in the intelligence community. Intelligence analysts face the same analytical challenges as researchers, only on steroids. Have trouble defining a research question? Figure out which one factor of a problem is the key to helping the President make a decision. Too much data? Try 3,000 pages a day. Trouble with ambiguity? Often, the answer isn't knowable. Computer crashed? How about tackling the problem any way in the dark in a tent? And oh, by the way, an answer is due in two hours and lives are on the line.

For all of these reasons and more, over the decades intelligence analysts have devised step-by-step instructions for every stage of the research and presentation process. These methods are qualitative, in that you can do them on a napkin in a tent, but some can be made to be quantitative. They come with diagrams and checklists to help jog the memory. Even as an "advanced user," I find the checklists indispensable. Otherwise, I tend to skip steps, and that leads to error.

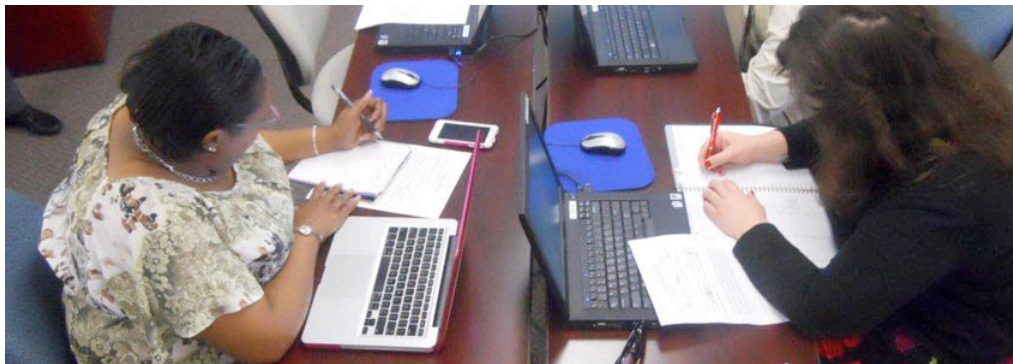
Techniques I find particularly useful for students have to do with defining a problem, broadening or narrowing the focus, breaking a problem or argument down into its component parts, evaluating sources and presenting conclusions. My more advanced students have had success with techniques designed to help identify patterns and make sense of fragmented information.

Try this with your freshmen. Draw a star with the points labeled Who, What, When, Where, How and Why.



Give the students a topic, and for each point of the star ask for 10 related questions. To accomplish this, they will have to work back and forth between the points and do a little research. By the time they are done, I guarantee they have learned to ask questions and broaden their scope!

Cynthia Storer recently attended the Sundance film festival for the premiere of an HBO documentary, "Manhunt: The Search for Bin Laden," in which she appears.



Participants working hard in one of CeTEAL's "Circles"

Storer Shares Structured Analytical Techniques

CeTEAL encourages faculty to share ideas and teaching techniques that have been successful in their classes.

Cynthia Storer is a lecturer in the intelligence and national security program offered by the Department of Politics and Geography. She recently shared her analytical expertise with fellow faculty in a series of training sessions offered through CeTEAL. Storer's series—Structured Analytical Techniques—included topics such as argument mapping, forming hypotheses and visualizing data. In the interactive sessions, Storer illustrated techniques she uses with her students to encourage analytical thinking and problem solving. Participants in the sessions had the opportunity to use critical thinking tools employed by U.S. intelligence agencies to practice analytical activities suitable for the classroom.

Kimbel Library's new Discover! Service

Kimbel Library continues its efforts to increase student and faculty access to online resources.

"Kimbel Library has wanted to offer 'a better way to find what you're looking for' for its user community for some time," says John Felts, head of library technology and services (LTAS) for Kimbel Library and Bryan Information Commons. As libraries have attempted to provide access to ever-growing electronic resource collections, artificial boundaries were placed around this information based largely on format. For example, books, e-books, and DVDs were accessed through the catalog, electronic databases were found in database finders, journal articles were searched for in individual databases, and there was yet another access point for electronic journals. Would it not be easier to search for all of our information

resources via one simple search and retrieval mechanism?

Kimbel Library's new "Discover!" is a search and retrieval tool that offers students, faculty and staff the ability to search the vast majority of the library's information resources through one user-friendly interface. "This search engine is similar to Google in its simplicity, but it directs our users to the most appropriate content that is available via the library."

For our more advanced users, Discover! also offers a rich array of advanced search capabilities and content limiters, as well as numerous tools for managing information (print, save, cite, export, email, etc.) once it has been retrieved. "We've been in production since the first of this calendar year, and the transition has been a smooth one. The library still offers the same assortment of search and retrieval tools that it has in the past, but with Discover! our rich array of information resources are more easily accessible; this platform has made the entire information search and retrieval process significantly easier."

New information content will be added to Discover! as it becomes available. In the near future, LTAS will begin developing discipline-limited searching options called "mini-Discover!" platforms. A mini-Discover! will allow users to search a separate instance of Discover! focused on pre-defined, subject-specific content such as a Business Discover!, an Education Discover!, etc.

Moodle Survey

The Moodle course management system is in limited use at CCU for a second semester this spring.

If you are using Moodle as part of the Phase II pilot this semester, expect to see a Moodle survey provided by the Department of Information Technology within the next few weeks. ITS will be surveying faculty and students who are using Moodle for active courses in order to gather feedback on the system.

TECH TIPS & UPDATES

Technology for Teaching & Learning

The development of online course content and learning activities is becoming easier through the use of technology. As online resources expand, more and more free programs are becoming available for use by faculty and students. Several programs CeTEAL staff use and recommend are listed below:

ISpring Free

ISpring Free is a program used to convert narrated PowerPoint presentations into a web-friendly, video format that includes navigation buttons. ISpring Free is a free download that installs itself as a separate tab within your PowerPoint program. The process of converting a PowerPoint file with ISpring Free takes just a few quick clicks. The program can convert PowerPoint files into formats compatible with both Blackboard and Moodle systems.

Photoshop Express Editor

Photoshop Express Editor is a free online program you can use to perform quick edits on digital photos. To use the program, simply upload your photo and use the online tools to crop, rotate, resize, or touch-up the image. Although Photoshop Express Editor contains tools such as filters and special effects that go beyond the basics, it is very easy to use. Once you have edited your photo, you can download it to your computer or share it on Facebook, Flickr or other sites.

Basecamp

Basecamp is an online project management program that provides small groups with the tools they need to collaborate on group projects. Basecamp offers a 60-day trial that allows a group of users to participate in project discussions, emails, file-sharing, and event timelines at no cost. Basecamp is very easy to learn and simple to navigate, and it is a great tool for groups of students who need to coordinate a class project.

For more information about these tools, contact ceatal@coastal.edu.

CCU is piloting the Turnitin program in Moodle and Blackboard this semester, and we are looking for feedback from faculty. Turnitin provides several services for reviewing and analyzing student writing including the following:

- **OriginalityCheck** compares student writing to billions of sources including webpages, student papers, and publications to check for plagiarism.
- **GradeMark** allows the instructor to quickly grade papers using drag and drop standard comments, audio comments, and grading rubrics.
- **PeerMark** enables students to evaluate each others' work and learn from constructive feedback.

If you are interested in trying Turnitin with your student papers during this pilot semester, contact Jim Streicher at jstreiche@coastal.edu for information on how to get started.

Blackboard Updates

Keep track of the latest Blackboard updates in the new "News and Updates" block on CCU's Blackboard website: www.coastal.edu/blackboard

Moodle Updates

ITS has released its new Moodle website: www.coastal.edu/moodle. Check out the new site for information on "Moodle Project" updates and timeline.

Top 10 reasons to try Moodle

1. Drag and drop content file upload.
2. Detailed student activity tracking.
3. One click hiding for files and links.
4. Easy quiz question editing.
5. Custom gradebook formulas.
6. Easy to reset test attempts.
7. Test setting overrides for individuals.
8. Downloadable assignment gradesheets.
9. Quick view individual grade reports.
10. Grade-linked attendance module.

Understanding Quality Matters

CeTEAL hopes to encourage faculty to take advantage of the benefits Quality Matters can bring to the development of distance learning courses. The article below is part one of a series describing the QM program.

In prior CeTEAL news there has been information about CCU becoming a Quality Matters subscriber, explanation of QM's history and information about QM sessions offered by CeTEAL. In this article the underlying principles of Quality Matter's (QM), the rubric and processes are presented. Together they strive to assure quality in a course. The QM Rubric is the guiding document that "has become the most widely used set of standards for the design of online and blended courses at the college level." There are eight general standards and a total of 41 standards in all to evaluate the design of a course.

Looking at the processes, there are four main principles: Continuous, Centered, Collegial and Collaborative, and each course review contains these principles. The heart of the Continuous process is to ensure that all reviewed courses eventually will meet expectations, and that there is quality in the improvement of courses on a continuous basis. The QM Rubric is based on national standards of best practices, research and instructional design to promote student learning. The Centered principle involves understanding that the course needs to be at a quality level of 85 percent or better--not perfect but "better than good enough." The review of a course is Collegial in nature performed, by peers, in a diagnostic manner that does not evaluate or judge the instructor but looks at the design of a course. The Collaborative review process consists of three experienced (QM trained) online instructors who base their review on the identified evidence found in a course. The faculty course developer is part of the process, and there are many ways for a course to meet each of the standards.


"Knowing is half the battle," so think about having your course reviewed (formally or informally) and consider the benefits for you and, more importantly, for your students. If you have any questions about QM or any of the processes, please contact Jean Bennett: jbennet1@coastal.edu.





CeTEAL Training Schedule

The full CeTEAL training schedule can be found online at www.coastal.edu/ceteal.
Visit the website and login to register for the sessions below and many more.

We would love to hear from you!
Visit the CeTEAL website and use these icons to contact us.
www.coastal.edu/ceteal


[Make an Appointment](#)


[Suggest a Class](#)


[Ask a Question](#)

Moodle	Quality Matters	Innovative Technology	Faculty Scholarship	Faculty Leadership
Introduction to Moodle March 20, 8:30 a.m.	QM Circle: Week 1 March 19, 1:40 p.m.	Back to School: Learning Through the Experience April 4, 12:15 p.m.	Writing Sanctuary March 13, 9 a.m.	Fine Tune Your Research with Discover!: A New Library Tool March 18, 2 p.m.
Introduction to Moodle March 20, 3 p.m.	QM Circle: Week 2 March 26, 1:40 p.m.	3 in 30: Interactive Polling April 5, 9 a.m.	Research Cafe March 22, Noon	Focusing Your Academic Plan: Integrating Research, Teaching, and Service March 29, 9 a.m.
Introduction to Moodle April 9, 12:15 p.m.	Teaching Effectiveness Games, Role-playing and Simulations March 21, 10:50 a.m.	3 in 30: Mindmapping April 5, Noon	Your Path to Promotion and Tenure April 9, 4:30 p.m.	CeTEAL Circles In addition to Writing Circles, CeTEAL offers a Grant-writing circle, an ABD Circle, and has a QEP Circle coming soon.
Introduction to Moodle April 10, 2 p.m.	Problem-based Learning March 28, 10:50 a.m.	3 in 30: Screen Capture April 12, 2 p.m.	Research Cafe April 19, Noon	
New Faculty Classes Building A Professional Portfolio March 27, 4 p.m.	Using Just in Time Teaching April 4, 11 a.m.	Personalizing Your Presentation: Using Narrated powerPoint April 10, 10 a.m.	Show the Impact of Your Research with Altmetrics April 23, 3 p.m.	

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CeTEAL Advisory Committee

The CeTEAL Advisory Board meets quarterly to review CeTEAL activities, plans and policies. The members are active participants in assisting the center with teaching, scholarship and leadership sessions, seminars and other events such as New Faculty Orientation and New Faculty Seminar Series.

Louis Keiner — College of Science
Margaret Fain — Kimbel Library
Jeremy Dickerson — College of Education
Elizabeth Howie — College of Humanities and Fine Arts
Marvin Keene — College of Business
Denise Davis — Academic Advisor
Gabrielle Wirth — CCU Student

CeTEAL Online Resources

www.coastal.edu/ceteal

www.coastal.edu/blackboard

libguides.coastal.edu/moodlefaculty