can't change your policy at the end of term when you are assigning grades. We've all had to eat crow.

dentists learn to take advantage of the weak spots. But know this: your syllabus is your contract, and you

one of the assignments or tests? Your grading system will get stronger as the years go by and your stu-

"C," but if you are counting letter grades, it becomes a "B." Have you unintentionally set up your system

What happens if a student skips a test? Is it an "F"? A zero? Four 90's + a skipped test averages out to a

plusses and minuses or is an 80% worth the same as 89%? Do you average by number or by letter grade?

sounds clear and reasonable. But is it? What is your grading scale? Is 90%

corrected or submit a ticket with HCC Live.

typographical error. If so, ask your dean

or at a different campus

information? Perhaps it still shows you as an adjunct

Outlook e

lists and handbooks can be found in Outlook's Public

pus on various college

October 2013

Who's Your Rep?
Jana Bielecki
Ybor City Campus
Faculty Mentor

Want to find out who

represents your cluster or cam-

pus on various college-wide committees? Committee

lists can be found in Outlook's Public Folders (also available in Outlook Web Access).

Sorry, wrong number/title/campus, etc.

When someone clicks on your name to address an

Outlook e-mail message to you, does it give incorrect

information? Perhaps it still shows you as an adjunct or at a different campus—or maybe just has a
typographical error. If so, ask your dean to get it corrected or submit a ticket with HCC Live.

Making the Grade: Un-scheming the Grade Scheme!
Dr. Barbara Goldstein, Dale Mabry Faculty Mentor

Grades can be an emotional—and controversial—topic for a classroom. Your grading system probably seems very clear and fair to you, but that clarity and fairness may not be apparent to your students. Does your syllabus say something like this? "There will be 5 tests, all weighted equally. Your final grade will be the average of the 5 tests." That sounds clear and reasonable. But is it? What is your grading scale? Is 90-100% an "A"? Do you go by plusses and minuses or is an 80% worth the same as 89%? Do you average by number or by letter grade?

What happens if a student skips a test? Is it an "F"? A zero? Four 90's + a skipped test averages out to a "C," but if you are counting letter grades, it becomes a "B." Have you unintentionally set up your system so that students who have not truly mastered the material end up passing your class because they aced one of the assignments or tests? Your grading system will get stronger as the years go by and your students learn to take advantage of the weak spots. But know this: your syllabus is your contract, and you can’t change your policy at the end of term when you are assigning grades. We’ve all had to eat crow somewhere along the way—and then plugged the hole for the next semester!

HCC Mentor Mission:
Encourage, Coach, Guide & Advise

One College – One Book: How Students Learn
Celeste Fenton, Ph.D.—Director CITT Faculty Professional Development

During the New Faculty Orientation, hosted by CITT, new faculty were provided a copy of How Learning Works: 7 Research-Based Principles for Smart Teaching by Ambrose, Bridges, Lovett, DiPietro, and Norman. The book introduces seven principles of how students learn. Dr. Celeste Fenton, Director CITT Faculty Professional Development, not only uses the principles in her teaching at HCC but also with her graduate students at the University of South Florida.

Dr. Celeste Fenton says, "My reaction to the book was a dual appreciation of its research base, combined with practical tips and information drawn from the authors’ experience. The principles apply across all subject areas, educational levels, and pedagogical situations. The first section of the book explains the principles and their impact on teaching. The second section of the book discusses how the principles can be applied to teaching and includes a variety of teaching strategies and resources such as concept maps, rubrics, check-lists, assessments, and other learning activities."

To continue the conversation, visit the CITT blog at http://citt-tech-niques.blogspot.com.

Tenure Portfolio... In Need of a Committee?
Dr. Michael Odu, Brandon Faculty Mentor

• Campus Advisory Council—Contact your campus president
• Institutional Advisory Council—Contact your campus president
• HCC Sustainability Council—Contact Ms. Resham Shirsat at nrshirsat@hccfl.edu

New Faculty Libguide

Teaching & Learning Strategies

Dealing with a Diverse Student Body?
Johana Melendez, Plant City Campus Faculty Mentor

Would you like to hear more about 4 core principles that all students long for? Regardless of their background, ethnicity, language, gender, religion, age, and all differences you can name, I believe these are core principles that if you embrace them, it can advance your connections with students that could eventually lead to improvement in their academic progress. If you want to hear more about it and some practical strategies to use in your classroom when dealing with a diverse student body click the link to read more.