

CS 365: SEAS Teaching Practicum
Assignment 7 – for March 8 2011

Please complete all parts of this assignment. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the course staff.

[Reading]. We'll spend most of next week discussing a teaching case. In preparation, read "Trouble in Stat. 1B (A)", and write down some thoughts on what was happening in that classroom. One relevant idea is that of a *classroom contract*. There are a few notes on classroom contracts on the back of this sheet. Take a look at them and write down what you think the classroom contract in that particular incarnation of Stat 1B might have been.

[Microteaching viewing] Watch the video of your microteaching with one of us. Reflect on how your approach and execution here differ from the nano-teaching and other practices you did earlier. What do you want to focus on next in your teaching?

CLASSROOM CONTRACTS

EXPLICIT CONTRACTS (often found in syllabi)

- Weekly classroom topics
- Reading assignments, when to read each piece
- Writing assignments, dates due
- Exams, dates
- Rules about late papers, absences
- Often, grading percentages

IMPLICIT CONTRACTS (often unspoken; many could be discussed)

- Who talks in this classroom; when; how long; how do they get the floor?
- Who sets the agenda, how shared is it?
- Is this a place for competition or collaboration?
- Is it safe to make mistakes, to fail?
- What is success in this classroom? how is it measured? how is it achieved?
- What are the boundaries between student and teacher? between student and student?
- What levels of learning are featured: intellectual, emotional, experiential, ethical?
- What styles of learning are emphasized: structured? open?
- What is the big agenda? What is the story line of the course? What are the underlying questions?
- What will be learned? Are students asked to learn facts, to think through problems?
- Why is the professor doing what he/she is doing when he/she does it?

Taken from: <http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/html/icb.topic58504/contracts.html>