This one-credit course is required for first-time Teaching Assistants in the Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park. It is designed to provide tools, guidance, and support for graduate students designing lessons, leading discussion sections, and giving guest lectures in lower-level undergraduate history courses. The main focus of the course is sharing scholarship and ideas about innovative and effective college teaching, although all issues and questions related to the first-time TA experience are welcome.

Requirements: Students enrolled in the course will meet as a group once every 2-3 weeks. Beyond these common meetings, students will attend, schedules permitting, the discussion section meetings of at least two fellow TAs; and the guest lecture rehearsals and their corresponding lectures of at least two fellow TAs. Grades will be based on class participation, on the completion of all aforementioned visits with feedback (see below), and on a short reflection piece due at the end of the semester (see below).

Procedure for section, rehearsal, and lecture visits. A schedule of class members’ discussion sections, lecture rehearsals, and lectures will be posted on the course website.

For section visits, contact the TA and request permission to visit her or his section or lecture. Note to section leaders: It is recommended that you allow no more than one visitor at a time in any given section meeting. Note to visitors: Best not to wait until the end of the semester to schedule your sections visits – first, because your feedback will be less useful by then; and second, because you may run out of time if others have already scheduled visits during the sections you wish to attend.

For lecture rehearsal and lecture visits, any number of fellow TAs may attend.

After you attend a section or lecture, provide feedback to the TA in writing, copied to Prof. Sicilia. Include information about which section or lecture you attended.

Students with Disabilities. Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester if you require any disability-related special accommodations.
Religious Observances. The University System of Maryland policy provides that students not be penalized because of observances of religious beliefs, but rather shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment missed due to individual participation in religious observances. Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester if you are going to miss any assignments due to religious observances.

Academic Integrity. The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit [http://www.shc.umd.edu](http://www.shc.umd.edu). To further exhibit your commitment to academic integrity, remember to sign the Honor Pledge on all examinations and assignments: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)."

Schedule of Common Meetings (TLF2101)

1/25, 10:30-noon  Launching the Semester, part 1
1/30, 6:00-7:30 pm  Launching the Semester, part 2
2/13, 6:00-7:30 pm  How Students Learn History


2/27, 6:00-7:30 pm  Creating and Grading Written Work
3/26, 6:00-7:30 pm  Encouraging Attendance and Participation
4/16, 6:00-7:30 pm  Dealing with Plagiarism
4/30, 6:00-7:30 pm  Final Papers, Final Exams
5/14, 6:00-7:30 pm  Wrap-up, with pizza

Final assignment, due midnight May 17, 2012. Email Prof. Sicilia ([dsicilia@umd.edu](mailto:dsicilia@umd.edu)) your reflections, in 500-1000 words, about 1) what you found most rewarding about TA experience this semester; 2) what you found most challenging; and 3) what you will do differently next time.