CoATParticipant’s Name: **Derek Sollenberger**

Course observed: **CSC401**

Date of observation: **11-14-07**

Time of class: **5:20 - 6:30 p.m.**

Observed by: **Nancy Fire**

**Teaching characteristics – Comments**

1. **Planning and start of session**
   - Appropriateness of aims and outcomes (where it is possible to evaluate this). Communication of these to students. Continuity with other sessions and students’ prior knowledge made explicit. Coping with any unexpected occurrences, e.g. latecomers, missing equipment.

   Planned this session to address a topic (security) that the students had expressed high interest in. Knew students by name and called their names. No unexpected occurrences. Few late comers, but Derek didn’t seem to be phased by this. Introduced the lecture by telling them how this lecture built towards the content in the next lecture.

2. **Presentation**
   - Structure. Relevance and organization of content. Attitude to subject matter. Clarity of presentation. Emphasis of key points. Pace of session (time management). Tone, volume, clarity of speech. Links made to other aspects of course (e.g. lectures, seminars or tutorials). Summary (end and/or interim).

   Used interesting examples from "real world". Used language of programmers like "crack the code". Relating to what the learners said they knew. Asked questions. Referred to graphic in text. Told the students where he was going to challenge them. Built the lecture …one part upon another. Tied questions to what he planned to talk about…used questions to introduce components of the lecture.

3. **Student participation**
   - Question and answer technique. Exercises/activities. Class management (appropriate level of control and authority). Instructions to students. General class atmosphere. Level of participation between students (excessive? lacking?). Attention and interest. Attitude to students. Awareness of individual needs. Student-teacher rapport.

   Although Derek asked questions and invited responses, only about 3-4 students responded. About 5 students on their computers with email and games. Saw one student with slides up on computer. Not taking many notes. Derek wrote down what the students said after they responded. Or said, "hm…interesting"…giving them the feedback that he was thinking about what they said.
4. **Methods and approaches**  
*Choice/variety of teaching/learning methods. Use and design of instructional materials (board, technology, handouts etc.) Use of appropriate reinforcement. Examples and analogies. References and links to research, other resources. Handling problems/disruptions.*

Used lecture plus powerpoint on large screen. Used blackboard effectively to diagram points in lecture. Asked questions. Had no difficulty with technology. Faced the class and interacted with them. Derek summarized at the end of the lecture. While using powerpoint, clicked on a few lines at a time and asked the class if that content made sense. When asked a question he didn’t know the answer to, he was honest about not knowing. Seemed a little rushed at the end of the lecture.

5. **General**  
*Were the aims and outcomes achieved? Appropriateness of teaching/learning methods. Was effective communication achieved? Awareness of needs of learners and differences in approach.*

Derek covered all of the content he intended to cover. Engagement of students seems low and an area to work on.

6. **Aspects to improve**  
*Comment in terms of both teaching style and content (if possible).*

Engaging the students in the learning process during the course period would be a suggestion.

Signed by observer___________________________________________  Date:  ______________

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS for the CoAT PARTICIPANT**

Complete this section after your class has been observed and you have met with your observer. Attach your comments to this observation form.

1. What did you feel went well in this class session?

The students seemed to be genuinely interested in the material. They asked good questions and seemed to understand the material. Personally, the material was easy to talk about even though I hadn’t had to teach anything like it before.
2. What would you like to change about this class session if you had to teach it again?

I would have forced the students to be more engaged in the class. Every class only a few speak up and many others are working on their laptops and not paying attention. There was nothing in my lecture to force them into paying attention.

3. In the light of the observer’s comments, what aspects of your teaching approach will you look at changing in the future? How will you go about doing this?

I need to find a way to encourage or even force the students to engage in the material and discussion. I could leave some blanks in the powerpoint slides and have them fill them in. Additionally, I could provide them with problems and have them work through them and discuss their results.

4. What have you found useful/not so useful about the observation process?

Overall the observation process was great. The only thing is that it only spans one lecture and that particular lecture may or may not be representative of the course as a whole. I think that is an acceptable problem because of time commitment. I will say the feedback I received as part of this was very helpful.

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