HOW CAN THE CONCEPT OF HONESTY IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>instructor, being honest with</th>
<th>instructor</th>
<th>students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>self-reflective teaching</td>
<td></td>
<td>explicit goals &amp; methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>responsive instruction</td>
<td></td>
<td>self-reflective learning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHO AM I?

- Instructional faculty in Physics & Astronomy, from 2013
  - large lecture courses for general education
  - small labs for majors
  - professional development for faculty
  - mentor undergraduate researchers
- prior: high school physics teacher & teacher trainer
WHERE AM I FROM?
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

A. Hawaii
B. US mainland
C. Another country
D. Other
YOU ARE . . .

A. faculty
B. grad student
C. staff / post-doc
D. none of the above
INTRODUCTIONS

RAISE YOUR SHEET IF YOU WILL BE TEACHING

- Natural sciences and engineering
- Social sciences and education
- Arts, humanities, literature
- Language
- Business
- Other?
YOU WILL TEACH

A. lecture
B. lab
C. language
D. online
WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN HONEST CLASSROOM?

▸ Write what you think on the back of your ABCD sheet
▸ Exchange with a neighbor and read the paper
▸ What resonates with you?
THE HONEST CLASSROOM

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN HONEST CLASSROOM
THE HONEST CLASSROOM

CHARACTERISTICS OF AN HONEST CLASSROOM

▸ social honesty: clear expectations
▸ personal honesty: justifiable actions
▸ intellectual honesty: claims based on evidence
THE HONEST CLASSROOM

characteristics of an honest classroom

About 68,200,000 results (0.42 seconds)

honest
/ˈænɛst/

adjective
1. free of deceit and untruthfulness; sincere.
"I haven't been totally honest with you"
synonyms: truthful, sincere, candid, frank, open, forthright, ingenuous, straight; More

adverb informal
1. used to persuade someone of the truth of something.
"you’ll like it when you get there, honest"

Translations, word origin, and more definitions
WHAT ARE FORMS OF DISHONESTY IN THE CLASSROOM?

▸ Write what you think on the back of your ABCD sheet
▸ Exchange with a neighbor and read the paper
▸ What resonates with you?
WHAT ARE FORMS OF DISHONESTY IN THE CLASSROOM?
WHAT ARE FORMS OF DISHONESTY IN THE CLASSROOM?

- cheating and plagiarism
- saying “I don’t know” when one has an idea to contribute
- claiming one opinion when holding a different one
- instructor: “Students report learning a lot from my class, even though I’m always a bit disappointed with the final exam…”
- instructor: “my students know how to do X - I lectured on that last week!”
WHY DOES STUDENT DISHonesty OCCUR?

- education viewed as a means to an end
- can’t afford valuing education for its own sake
- expediency
- fear and desperation

it’s not about you
WHY IS HONESTY FROM OUR STUDENTS WANTED / NEEDED?

A. Measure student learning
B. Assess student attitudes
C. Understand challenges
D. Needed for student self-regulation
FOSTERING STUDENTS’ BEST

HONEST EFFORT
FOSTERING STUDENTS’ BEST

STUDENTS

VALUE LEARNING

SENSE OF AGENCY

EMOTIONAL SAFETY

HONEST EFFORT
WHAT DO YOU CONTROL IN THE CLASSROOM?

- Think about this for a moment
- Discuss with a neighbor. What ideas did you have in common? What idea required further elaboration?
- Share with the whole class
WHAT DO YOU CONTROL IN THE CLASSROOM?
WHAT DO YOU CONTROL IN THE CLASSROOM?

- self: tone and presence
- distance: physical and emotional
- presentation
- assignments
- flow of activity
FOSTERING STUDENTS’ BEST

STUDENTS

VALUE LEARNING

SENSE OF AGENCY

EMOTIONAL SAFETY

HONEST EFFORT
FOSTERING STUDENTS’ BEST

INSTRUCTORS

- RELEVANCE
- ACHIEVABLE CHALLENGES
- FOCUS ON IDEAS

STUDENTS

- VALUE LEARNING
- SENSE OF AGENCY
- EMOTIONAL SAFETY

HONEST EFFORT
FOSTERING STUDENTS’ BEST

STRUCTURING CLASSROOM FOR HONESTY

- accountability
  - clear expectations
  - reduce temptations
- emotional safety
  - criticize ideas, not people
  - address student interests
- engage students
  - relevance
  - success (pay attention to learning curve)
- formative assessment
  - “know what they know / think” for teaching decisions
  - give feedback on student thinking
YOU OBSERVE A STUDENT CHEATING FROM A NEIGHBOR’S EXAM
THE MEAN OF STUDENTS’ MIDTERM GRADES IS A 50%
A STUDENT SUBMITS AN ASSIGNMENT LATE
TWO STUDENTS ARE DISRUPTIVE IN A LARGE LECTURE
TOP THREE TIPS FOR HONEST TEACHING

▸ Explicit learning goals for course AND daily

▸ Grading transparency - give students your grading checklist BEFORE the assignment

▸ Assess students and respond to the results
THE HONEST CLASSROOM: FOSTERING STUDENTS' BEST

**POP-QUIZ**

- How did I begin this session?
- Why?
- What was I trying to accomplish when I asked you, “what do you think are characteristics of an honest classroom?”
- Why did I ask you to pass your response to someone else?

- Use class time to model the process of scholarship - intellectual honesty and all that is necessary to support it
Honesty with others and with self is a core principle of scholarship.

Structures that encourage honesty also foster learning generally.

Credit to Steve Robinow and Maria Stewart.