

Faculty Learning Community  
Project Proposal Form

**Name:** Michael A. Radin

**Course(s):** Calculus I, Calculus II, Calculus III, and Complex Variables.

**Project Name:** Communication techniques to the students; expectations, tests, homework assignments, workshops, problems with students, and early alerts.

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Problem: Students missing parts of a question, not following the course rules and policies, not following instructions on the tests, homework assignments and on workshops.

Goal(s): Improve communication(s) between me and the students in writing.

Target Students: Who consistently have a problem with not carefully reading the questions and who are careless in complete comprehension of the problem(s).

Hypothesis/Proposed Solution: Improve the semantics of the questions, change the size of the text, and emphasize more clearly what I am expecting from the students. In particular, in the e-mails and on the worksheets and the tests. Furthermore, listen to the students' ideas too.

Progress Point: Better understanding by the students overall of what I am expecting from them.

Successes: Better performance of the students. More students coming in to ask questions during office and tutoring hours.

Obstacles: Some students using the old and longer methods instead of trying to understand the new and more efficient method(s) of solving problem(s).

Failure of the students to observe the class rules and policies and taking longer to mature as college students.

Surprises: Too much focus on structure by the students. Failure of the students to use common sense in some situations.

Comparative Results: Comparing Calculus I and Complex Variables in 2004 – 05 academic year vs. 2003 – 04 academic year.

Assessment: Comparing Calculus I and Complex Variables in 2004 – 05 academic year vs. 2003 – 04 academic year.

Future Study: Continuing to compare the same courses taught

Resources- People: FLC group 2004 – 05 academic year, Bernie Brooks, Karen Quinn, Maria Casapini.

Resources- Conferences: The FLC group 2004 – 05 academic year and the Lilly Conference.

Resources-Readings: McKeachie Book.

Questions/Requests to Learning Community