

Unifying Ideas: Building for-credit information literacy courses around themes to optimize student learning

Finding a Theme:

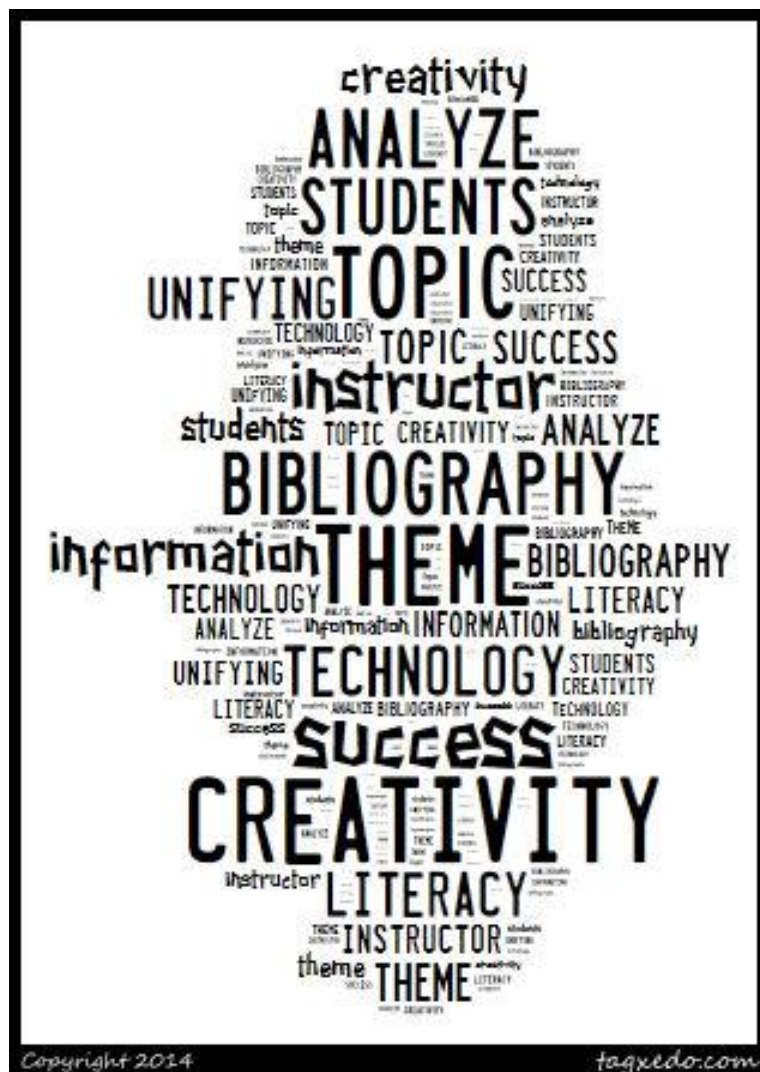
1. Come up with a topic that interests you and that you are knowledgeable about
2. Talk with coworkers to see if the topic is something that can transcend boundaries between different majors and learning levels

Problems that “Thematic Teaching” can help:

1. Students not “recycling” old project topics
2. Allowed for more group work and peer teaching
3. Peace of mind - easier to grade final projects because I had more confidence in my knowledge of the topic.
4. Re-energizes passion for teaching
5. Marketing of classes

Tips for success!

1. Put students into groups by majors to come up with thesis related to them and that could be more useful for teaching/using specific databases.
2. Sell them on the ideas that this project will allow them to walk out of class with a paper topic that can be used in their major later on (academic honesty benefits of annotated bibliography only).
3. Pick a theme that students can see is relevant - technology is probably best (but also broad enough to allow for variation).
4. Realize that themes and topics need to evolve and that there should be no rigid use of the defined theme in order to maximize student critical thinking and creativity.



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Presentation at:
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