All About ExCo @ Oberlin: Instructor Edition

Made with love by the 2022 ExCo Committee
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01 Overview

The basics of being an ExCo Instructor
What Is An ExCo Instructor?

A passionate individual who teaches a for-credit class at Oberlin College, on a niche subject of their choice, with student-developed curriculum.

ExCo Instructors are a vital part of Oberlin’s innovative learning environment.
Requirements & Prerequisites

Prerequisites:
- Oberlin Student Past or Present (From 1st Year to Alum!)
- That’s it! (Really)

Requirements to Apply:
- Letters of Recommendation
- Quality Syllabus
- Instructor Application
- Interview with an ExCo Committee Member
Questions? Reach Out (We’re Friendly!)

Office Hours
Interested in being an instructor? Need help with your syllabus? Just want to talk? Every committee member has in-person, remote-accessible office hours once a week.

Email
Not sure who to reach out to in particular? Email the ExCo Committee exco@oberlin.edu

Socials
Follow and/or message us on Instagram any time for more information & updates! @oberlinexco

Cohort Chat
As an instructor, you’ll have access to an exclusive ExCo chatroom with fellow cohort members.
ExCo Committee

Kate Luke
kluke@oberlin.edu

Sofia Chen
schen5@oberlin.edu

Sadie Wilson-Voss
swilsonv@oberlin.edu

David Gudjonsson
dgudjons@oberlin.edu

Olivia Wohlgemuth
owoohlgem@oberlin.edu

Adele Ross
aross2@oberlin.edu
02
Expectations
Duties of an ExCo Instructor
Steps for Success!

Strong Syllabus
Create a precise, detailed syllabus so that your students know what to expect.

Uphold Contract
Sign & uphold the principles in the ExCo Instructor Contract

Cohort Communication
Direct any questions or concerns towards your Cohort Leader; they’re there to help you!

Growth Mindset
Be open to learning as much as you teach in your course. Knowledge is a two-way street.
Every semester, ExCo instructors have the experience of managing a table of their own at the ExCo Fair. While required to attend, how you promote your course is up to you! Instructors are recommended to make a fun poster, print out a syllabi for potential students to look at, have a QR code with the course application to scan, have an interest sheet, and bring stickers, candy, or anything else to help decorate & excite.
Assignments

For to meet accreditation standards, ExCo must require instructor assignments. Whether you’re teaching for credit or not; whether you’re a community member or student. **Assignments are a part of teaching with Oberlin’s ExCo program.**
Typical* Assignments

- Goal Setting Paper
  - Define Pedagogical Goals
- Cohort Meeting
  - Group check-in discussion led by Cohort Leader (one of the ExCo Committee members)
- Auditing Assignment
  - Attend & observe another instructor’s course; write them an email about what you noticed
- Final Reflection Paper
  - Address/evaluate previous goals
- Final Survey
  - Feedback the ExCo committee uses to improve for future semesters

*Assignments subject to change semester to semester; these are examples of past assignments
Testimonies

It really is great! Don’t believe us? Read on.
“ExCo has granted me the opportunity to delve deep into a pedagogical experience, with all its challenges and triumphs, in a way that also gave me complete freedom to teach others about what I am really passionate about — I feel like that is a pretty valuable opportunity.”

—ExCo Instructor

“The ExCo has allowed me to share my knowledge and passion with my classmates at Oberlin College. While I learn how to be a instructor in ways of using power points, public speaking, and facilitating discussions, I also learn how to transition from a student to a teacher.”

—ExCo Instructor
“[ExCo] provided me with a platform to share my knowledge and experience with fellow students” —ExCo Instructor

“ExCo is truly a unique experience that Oberlin affords students. I have benefited tremendously from designing and teaching a course.” —ExCo Instructor

“ExCo has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my education. I would love to be a professor, but even then I wouldn't get to teach all the wacky intellectual tangents I've been able to explore as an ExCo instructor. It really is a dream job, right here in Oberlin.” —ExCo Instructor
“Teaching an ExCo has really helped me with my public speaking skills. 3 years ago I never thought I would be able to spend an hour talking to a group of people and now I do it every week.”

—Fall 2021 Instructor

“ExCo has benefited me by sharing my passions and what I love to do. They gave me the opportunity to continue my work by giving back to the community.”

—Fall 2021 Instructor

“ExCo has been a wonderful way to connect with younger students. I loved getting to practice facilitating discussion and lesson planning as well.”

—Fall 2021 Instructor