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ENGL 388V

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Learning Log #1

Now that I'm getting acquainted with being a UTA, I'm really starting to enjoy myself. I absolutely love working with my instructor, Catherine Bayly. I seriously think she's made the whole experience so far. She is very open with me about things I'm doing well and things that could be done differently. She told me that she's just as new to having a UTA as I am to being one, so we can work out the best ways to work together. I feel totally comfortable asking her any questions I have at any time.

My students have all been great so far, for the most part. They were shy at first. That shyness had me working double-duty as a UTA and as a student. I had to be sure to read the material and take extensive notes so that when class time rolled around, if no one wanted to answer Catherine's question, I could either answer it or frame the question in a new, more concise way. Now that the students have "broken the ice" in the classroom, they are all participating in the discussion and I barely have to open my mouth. I keep notes prepared just in case, but I haven't had to jump in out of necessity in two or three class sessions.

I still haven't had any students specifically reach out to me for anything. I've hosted office hours once so far and no one has been interested. I'm optimistic that when assignments start pouring in they'll be more likely to ask for my help. Their first assignment is being workshopped tomorrow, so they might come to me for review before turning in final drafts. I also have one student that is falling behind already this semester. They are not turning in discussion posts or raising their hand in class. I even noticed them whispering to their friend that they haven't done any of the readings so far. It's frustrating, but honestly, I'm lucky to only have one student not engaging.

I like being able to meet in 388V once a week to discuss our classes and new methods of teaching. I think it's incredibly helpful to have that guidance instead of only working with our instructors based on only our prior experiences (of which I have none, so that would be weird.)

So far I'm having a great time! No regrets for me!