YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3Lt68HYmUo

## Harry Greene's 7 Rules of Engagement for Teaching

#### 1. Give the students a reason to care

- It is your obligation as a teacher to convince the students to give you the time of day
- Why is the topic of the class interesting and important?

#### 2. Give the students a reason to believe in you

- Don't presume that the students automatically respect or trust you to know what you're talking about
- Talk about yourself—very briefly; provide information that shows that you are a real person, that you've had an interesting life, have a dog or whatever, that you struggled as an undergraduate—things that allow them to see you as a real person that they can relate to

## 3. Figure out where your audience is and meet them there (this is also a prime rule of therapy)

- Begin with an accurate notion of where your students are in terms of knowledge
- Meet your students there, connect, and move forward from there

## 4. Pose interesting questions, including some that you don't know the answer to

## 5. There are no stupid questions

- Teach so that class is always asking questions and wanting to know new things
- Some questions you will pose directly or in the material you present; some are questions that they raise as a result of what they are learning

## 6. Purposely pose ambiguous questions

• Use to generate discussion and even disagreement

## 7. The inverse talking rule

- If you are teaching in a situation in which student discussion is encouraged, the more one talks and asserts one's expertise, the less the students will talk
- You must learn to bite your tongue and let the students do as much of the talking as possible and only intervene when necessary
- This rule applies especially within a seminar context

# Also From Harry: Walkin' and Talkin' the Tree of Life: Why and How to Teach About Biodiversity

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F\_C6e6rHYqM