SOTL Reading Group: *Teaching as if Life Matters: The Promise of a New Education Culture*, by Christopher Uhl and Dana L. Stuchul

**Facilitators:**
Jim Capshew (History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine and the University Historian)
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How can we encourage our students to be self-aware, responsive, self-motivating learners throughout their lifetimes? How have our own experiences as students shaped us as adults and teachers, and how can we approach teaching in a way that adjusts for our own educational experiences? How can we open up possibility, curiosity, and change for our students?

Christopher Uhl (Biology) and Dana L. Stuchul (Curriculum and Instruction) from Penn State explore questions like these and others in their book *Teaching as if Life Matters: The Promise of a New Education Culture* (Johns Hopkins, 2011). According to the authors, our past educational experiences may have stymied us as teachers, since most learning focuses solely upon mental processes while failing to recognize the learner as complete person with complex feelings, desires and motivations. Instead, they suggest we can encourage the self-reinventions and transformations that only “relational intelligence” and personal connections to knowledge can produce, as they hold out the possibility for greater curiosity and change in our classrooms.

“Uhl’s text is inspirational,” noted one reviewer, “reading this book was a contemplative, rather than an academic, experience.”

In anticipation of Professor Uhl’s visit to Bloomington’s campus, there will be a reading group that meets on three occasions to discuss *Teaching as If Life Matters*. The reading group is open to all faculty and graduate students of Indiana University but registration is limited to 15. Participants will receive a copy of the book and will meet as a group with Uhl when he visits the Bloomington campus in April as one of our SOTL speakers.

Meetings will be held in the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning in the Wells Library from 9:05-10:30am; the dates are: Friday, February 5, 2016, Friday, February 19, 2016, and Friday, March 4, 2016.

If you are interested in joining the book group and are able to commit to attending all three of these meetings, please fill out the brief [application form](#) (it will download as a Word document) and return to to sotl@indiana.edu.