



Welcome to Week 12! This week's *Monday Minute* topics:

- **Teach-In (May 14):** *Restoring Truth—Academic Freedom in an Age of Censorship*
- **Self-Service Banner 9:** Update and *Additional Drop-In Zoom Sessions*
- **You're Invited!** Healing-Centered Engagement Faculty Workshop
- **Reminder:** Mt. SAC 2025 Commencement Ceremony
- **For Your Review: Mt. SAC 2035** (Mt. SAC Educational and Facilities Comprehensive Plan)
- **RSI Reminders:** Message from the RSI Coordinators
- Important Resources and Dates



Teach-In: *Restoring Truth—Academic Freedom in an Age of Censorship*

Mt. SAC's Humanities and Social Sciences faculty invite you to a powerful 12-hour interdisciplinary Teach-In: *Restoring Truth—Academic Freedom in an Age of Censorship*, happening Wednesday, May 14, in Building 13. Refer to email below for additional information.

Date: Wednesday, May 14


Location: Building 13 – Auditorium, Green Room, & Patio

Time: 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

What to Expect: Presentations, discussions, action tables, postcards to Congressional members, Solidarity Wall, book raffles, and refreshments

Want to help? [Volunteer Form](#)

Questions? Contact HSS at hssdiv@mtsac.edu or (909) 274-4570

 [We have a flyer that can be shared.](#)

Please contact [Kelly Rivera](#), [Allie Frickert](#), or [Kim Farhart](#) directly if you have any questions.



Banner Update: Additional Drop-In Zoom Sessions

In response to faculty feedback, the Office of Instruction is expanding support for the transition to Self-Service Banner 9 by offering ***additional drop-in Zoom sessions*** over the next two weeks. These informal sessions are designed to provide real-time assistance and answer your

questions.

Each session will begin with a brief overview, followed by time for individual support. Loralyn Isomura and Chris Estrada will demonstrate key faculty functions, including the new class search tools, how to view class rosters, and other essential features in Self-Service Banner 9.

Virtual Drop-In Help and Assistance via Zoom: <https://mtsac-edu.zoom.us/j/9092745770>

- **Monday, May 12:** 4:30 – 6:00 PM
- **Tuesday, May 13:** 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- **Wednesday, May 14:** 8:30 – 10:00 AM
- **Thursday, May 15:** 10:00 – 11:30 AM
- **Friday, May 16:** 8:30 – 10:00 AM
- Additional dates and times will be added as needed or requested.

Feel free to join at any point during the scheduled times—no RSVP required. A “how-to” guide is also attached for quick reference on key functions in Banner 9. Please reach out to [Loralyn Isomura](#), [Chris Estrada](#), or [Monica Cantu-Chan](#) if you have any questions. Our team is here to support you throughout this transition.



You're Invited! Healing-Centered Engagement Workshop

As part of our Mt. SAC 2035 vision, we are excited to invite faculty to a unique opportunity that reflects our shared commitment to building a healing-centered Culture of Care. This summer, a limited number of faculty will have the opportunity to **participate in an engaging and informative workshop on *Healing Centered Engagement (HCE)***—a strengths-based approach that honors culture and identity as essential to personal and community well-being.

Rooted in over 30 years of research, this ***Four Pivots Workshop*** will explore how awareness, connection, vision, and presence can reshape our instructional spaces and deepen our support for students' lived experiences. The workshop will take place on **Wednesday, July 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall**, and includes a light breakfast and lunch. **Faculty will be compensated at the non-instructional rate for 4 hours.**

We ask that all participants:

1. **Read *The Four Pivots*** by Dr. Shawn Ginwright (books will be provided once your registration is completed),
2. **Attend the full session**, and
3. **Commit to sharing implementation strategies** with peers in a follow-up setting.

Space is limited and [registration](#) is on a first come—first served basis. Please [register](#) by **Friday, May 23** to reserve your seat!



Mt. SAC 2025 Commencement Ceremony

The Mt. SAC 2025 Commencement Ceremony will be held on **Friday, June 13, at 5:30 pm**. The ceremony will begin promptly at 5:30 pm (rain or shine). More information can be found at the [Mt. SAC 2025 website](#). Please see the attached email from Laura Martinez for additional faculty information.



Mt. SAC 2035: The Mt. SAC Educational and Facilities Comprehensive Plan

Planning efforts for Mt. SAC 2035 are moving forward under the thoughtful leadership of Lianne Greenlee. The May update ([PDF: Mt. SAC 2035 May Updates May 7 2025.pdf](#)) offers a helpful summary of the current progress and planning timeline. In addition, the latest version

of the  [Mt. SAC 2035 Planning Framework-Goals-Commitments-Draft 5-5-25.docx](#) is available for your review.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact [Lianne Greenlee](#) directly.



RSI Reminders: Message from the RSI Coordinators

Please see the message below from our RSI Coordinators:

Hello online faculty,

With insights gained from hundreds of RSI course reviews, Sheila and I would like to **pass along these tips for meeting RSI guidelines.**

- Remember that while ACCJC (our accreditor) will be evaluating courses this term, RSI is not a one and done process. **These guidelines must be upheld every semester and in every online course.**
- With the final withdrawal date approaching this Friday for short-term (8-week) courses (May 22) and the accelerated nature of a later-start short-term course, **it's a good time to check on students** (e.g., Canvas Inbox, Announcement, or using the "Message Students Who" tool in Grades). For example:
 - **Send another message to students who are below the passing threshold**, giving them the first steps they need to take to get caught up or helping them understand the withdrawal process and what a "W" means.
 - **Send more kudos to students who are passing/performing well**, give them the motivation to bolster/continue their good habits through the end of the semester
 - If you've just started a late-start course, **message students who missed those first assignments to find out what's happening and how you can help and drop inactive students to help prevent fraudulent enrollment.**
- **Make it abundantly clear** to students **how you are monitoring their progress**, when and where they can expect those messages from you, and how they can contact you or meet with you. **Make sure you are following through.** Monitor and engage them in the manner that you described.
- **Ensure that you have updated your drop policy so it is in agreement with Article 13.A.7** in the faculty contract, "DL professors are responsible for dropping students if they do not regularly participate in activities defined in the syllabus in 20% or more of any part of the scheduled class term prior to the established drop date for the class. Twenty percent (20%) (i.e., in class and replaced seat time) represents 3.2 weeks in a 16-week course, 1.6 weeks in an 8-week course, and 1.2 weeks in a 6-week course."
- State in multiple places (i.e., syllabus, course homepage, announcements, calendar, end of module recaps) the **TIME and PLACE of your office hours.**
- For office hours to count as RSI Standard 1, they must be live and synchronous—they **cannot be by appointment only.** They should be a set (predictable) time each week. Either use Tech Connect Zoom or make sure the meeting link is posted in multiple, obvious locations (Announcements, homepage, syllabus, top of modules page, etc.).
- **For announcements to count as RSI they must contain course content.** Record keeping reminders about assignments or due dates are important but are not RSI on their own. Add 2-3 sentences explaining the content you will be covering this week and what students should pay close attention to.

Thanks so much for your continued hard work to support our online students!

Sincerely,
Jenny Gernhart and Sheila Wright
RSI Coordinators



Important Dates and Resources:

- Resource: [Course Cancellation Protocol Final May 1 2025](#)
- **HSS Teach-In Event**, May 14, 9 am – 9 pm, Building 13
- **Memorial Day** (Campus Closed): Monday, May 26, 2025
- **Summer 2025 Merging Canvas Course Shells Deadline:** Monday, June 9, 2025
- **Spring 2025 Finals Week:** June 9 – June 15, 2025
- **Mt. SAC Commencement:** Friday, June 13, 2025:
 - **Event Begins Promptly at 5:30 pm**
- **Spring 2025 Final Grades Due Date** (2nd eight-week, full-term, etc.): **Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 8 pm**
- **Fall 2025 Merging Canvas Course Shells Deadline:** Monday, August 11, 2025
- [2024 – 2025 Academic Calendar](#)
- [Mt. SAC Calendar of Events](#)

As we move into the final stretch of the semester, thank you for staying informed and engaged. Whether it's joining a Banner support session, attending the May 14 Teach-In, or preparing for Commencement, your continued commitment to our students and campus community makes all the difference. Please continue to contact your [Dean or Division Office](#) if you have any questions. We are here to support you.

Wishing you a strong and supportive Week 12!

Thank you,
Kelly Fowler



Kelly Fowler, Ph.D.

Vice President of Instruction | Accreditation Liaison Officer
(she/her/hers)

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Receiving this email outside of regular working hours? Managing work and life responsibilities is unique for everyone. I have sent this email at a time that works for me. Please respond at a time that works for you.

From: Campus Announcements <Announce-C@LISTSERV.MTSAC.EDU> **On Behalf Of** Rivera, Kelly

Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 6:23 PM

To: Announce-C@LISTSERV.MTSAC.EDU

Subject: [ANNOUNCE] HSS Faculty Teach In - May 14th 9am-9pm - You and Your Students are Invited

Dear Colleagues,

Several of us in the HSS are collaborating to organize a 12-hour interdisciplinary teach-in, and we hope you'll consider participating. It reflects a shared desire among faculty to create a space to respond to current challenges in higher education and to model civic engagement and critical inquiry for our students.

Our objects include:

- Defend academic freedom as essential to democratic learning and public accountability.
- Expose the sweeping impacts of federal executive orders attacking DEI, Title IX, LGBTQ rights, immigration rights, and inclusive historical memory.
- Equip students with the skills to use critical inquiry and academic knowledge to become informed and active participants in American public life.
- Model how faculty across disciplines help students resist censorship and foster a more just society.

The goal is to explore, through presentations and conversations, what academic freedom means in this moment and why it matters. Topics may span from discipline-specific analyses to broader critiques of [censorship, state overreach, or attacks on higher education](#).

HSS Faculty Teach In: Restoring Truth: Academic Freedom in an Age of Censorship

Location: Building 13 Auditorium, Green Room, and Patio

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 14 | 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

The Auditorium Lobby will include a Solidarity Wall where students, staff, and faculty can engage in dialogue and leave messages for one another. Outside on the patio, we'll host Action Tables with postcards to Congressional members. Throughout the day, with book raffles, we will share copies of *On Tyranny*. Refreshments and snacks will also be available.

We hope that you will promote this event and consider bringing your classes. If you are unable to bring your classes, please encourage students to attend. (We have attached a flyer to this email that can be shared.) If you're willing to offer extra credit, we will provide Extra Credit slips students may collect as proof of attendance.

We want this to be an interdisciplinary effort that showcases how each of us can respond with positive change, in this moment. Our vision for the event is that it will provide some solace, community, and inspiration for students and even the broader community. In this way, we could use your help with your presence, at the event. Engage in conversations with students, with colleagues, fill out a postcard to Congressional member, and leave a message on the Solidarity Wall, the primary way that you can help is through your engagement during the event. **So, we have some idea of attendance, of those who can assist in overseeing action tables and facilitating student conversations, please indicate your availability on [this volunteer form](#).**

In Solidarity,

Kim Earhart, Allie Frickert, and Kelly Rivera

Kelly A.F. Rivera

Geography and Political Science Department Chair
Professor of Political Science
Common Course Numbering Coordinator
Academic Senate Legislative Liaison

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