

## Linda Rice Podcast Transcript

**Jen:** Hi, this is Jen Evans and Jessica Beaber here for Ohio University's College Countdown. Professor Linda Rice shared with us last week some of her insights on how she runs her classroom, what inspires her about her field and what you can expect as a first year student.

**Jessica:** Linda Rice, assistant professor of English, approaches the classroom from every angle; as a teacher, a learner and a researcher. Her classroom work revolves around English and language arts education. She has taught at Ohio University since 2002 and find that students enjoy the openness of her classroom.

**Professor Rice:** When we're discussing literature something I highly value is for students to bring their own experiences. Their own interpretations. So I'll tell them, if you're looking for the sage on the stage this won't be the class. I'm not going to be up here telling you what to think about this literature or what to value. I want you to bring your life and your ideas and your interpretations and experiences here and then we talk about that. I'll tell them when we have a Socratic seminar that I'm intentionally going to pose the question and then back out of the discussion because I want you to own it. I want you to develop it.

**Jen:** Professor Rice not only encourages open discussions in the classroom, but challenges students to develop their own voice and ideas.

**Professor Rice:** Students really find their voices to be valued. They're willing to take risks when the teacher's not hovering over them saying this is what you should think. I find a great sense of unity. And I'll say on day one right now we're all strangers, but I can guarantee you that ten weeks from now we are all going to be friends. And it happens every time.

**Jessica:** Professor Rice discussed what she first thought of students when she came to OHIO.

**Professor Rice:** Well, I knew they would be fantastic and they are. So that's no surprise. I just continue to be impressed by how open students are to, I would say, playing in the classroom. I like to try things out in different ways and I feel that our students are very open and very flexible. They're open minded; they're teachable; they're just a lot of fun. I think Teaching is relational and I've found that when I expect a lot out of my students, that is fine. But what they also need from me is for me to give them all of the support to get there. So I want to be there prepared everyday when they show up to class. I want to give them detailed assignments so they know what I'm looking for. I even give them rubrics, which are detailed grading criteria because I think that's fair. We've got a choice as teachers. We can make a vague assignment and say guess what I want. Or we can say here is what I'm looking for and this is what it's going to look like to get that A paper. I've found that the more candid I am with students about what I expect, the more equipped they are to deliver. And so it ends up producing a high quality work. I think our students are energetic and caring. They're passionate about some very important things that happen in our local community and our world. They make it a delight to teach here.

**Jen:** Professor Rice advises new students to make the most of the experience in the classroom and in life.

**Professor Rice:** Having a mindset of expectation. Bringing all of yourself to a situation. It makes a difference in life. Say you're in a class that you're not too thrilled with. But if you say I'm going in there today and I WILL take something away that's good for me. Whether it's knowledge, a relationship or whatever, you will. But if you go in and you're dragging around saying this is horrible - I'm not going to get anything out of this. Guaranteed, you won't. But I can't think of any life situation. A good life situation. A reasonable life situation. Where if you bring something to the experience you won't take something away.

**Jessica:** This is Jen Evans and Jessica Beaber. Thanks for taking the time to listen to Ohio University's College Countdown