What We Wish We Had Known in September
(Reflections of new faculty at the end of their first
term of teaching at Carleton)

About Life at Carleton
Ten weeks is VERY short; there’s no slack time at the start of the term.
College departments have different cultures.
Activities tried at other places may work well here.
Many events on campus!
The “end of term crunch” will be a big challenge.

About Students
Students come to class.
Students will read and will do the work you assign.
Many students are reluctant to visit the instructor during office hours.
Students’ lives are tightly scheduled.
Come up with a plan to communicate with students between classes.
More information on student life outside the classroom and the ebb and
flow of their commitments during the term (departmental SDAs are good
sources for this information)

About Teaching at Carleton
Did we mention that ten weeks is very short?
Midterm evaluations are valuable.
What the S/Cr/NC (“scrunch”) process means to students
Which written work can be submitted for the writing portfolio
Which courses count for the writing requirement
Student (and departmental) expectations for course requirements and
seminars
How do first-year seminars work?
Setting up a survivable (for the instructor) set of course assignments
Grading mysteries – you can give an A+ on an assignment, but not as a
course grade.
How do academic accommodations work?
There is no college-wide course evaluation form.