**ROMS Class Observation Instrument**

**Upper-level Classes (260 and above)**

(adapted from CFE peer visit form)

# Directions:

1. Prior to the class observation: please review the instructor’s lesson plan carefully, along with this observation form.
2. During the class visit: Note specific comments beside each relevant indicator you see in each focus area. Use the Comments box to summarize what you observed regarding each section in a more holistic manner. Use NA if an item/category is not applicable.
3. The final Comments section is intended for a summary of the observation and/or any additional comments you may have. Suggestions may also be included.
4. After the observation, meet with the instructor to discuss the observation and share the form. The instructor can then include comments and both of you will sign and date this form.

Please Note:

The report you submit to the Chair should be in the style of a letter – either as a separate document or included at the bottom of the Peer Observation cover page. The notes made on this document should be submitted with the report, but are not the report itself. This is intended as a prompt or guide for your class observation and as a chance to discuss/debrief with the colleague you observed.

All observations need to include a signed copy of the Peer Observation cover page:(<http://romsnet.web.unc.edu/peer-class-observations/>)

# NAME (INSTRUCTOR): DATE:

**CLASS/SECTION:**

**NAME (OBSERVER):**

**Pedagogical approach and instructional techniques**

(How does the instructor’s approach encourage and support student learning?)

1. Shows enthusiasm for teaching and the subject matter
2. Speaks clearly and audibly
3. Encourages student questions and student participation
4. Engages students with content through use of textbook, Sakai, PowerPoint, web- based resources, etc.
5. Utilizes different class formats (whole-class lecture, instructor-led whole-class discussion, student presentations, small-group and pair work)

COMMENTS:

**Approach to content**

(How does the instructor engage students with the material to be learned?)

1. Explains the learning objectives for/provides an overview of the class session
2. Uses questions or activities to identify gaps in student understanding of the content
3. Shows how new content relates to or builds upon earlier concepts or larger course themes
4. Uses familiar examples to illustrate or explain concepts
5. Summarizes major points at the end of the lesson

COMMENTS:

**Active engagement of students**

(Are students actively and intellectually engaged with the content?)

1. Makes regular use of questions and activities to ensure continual engagement with and/or among students
2. Poses questions that cause students to think (how? why?) and not merely recall (who? what?)
3. Notices when particular students are not engaged and takes action to actively involve them
4. Promotes high ratio of student talk vs. teacher talk
5. Ensures that students understand the relationship and relevance of what they are doing in class to overall course objectives

COMMENTS:

**Monitoring student learning**

(How do the instructor and students know the students are learning?)

1. Provides students the opportunity to voice their understanding of content through questioning and/or activities
2. Consistently follows up paired and small group activities/discussions with whole- class review of responses
3. Prompts students to explain their reasoning for answers
4. Probes for student understanding even when they do not ask questions

COMMENTS:

**Learning community**

(Does the instructor promote a positive, productive learning community?)

1. Respects and encourages student contributions
2. Moves around the classroom, monitoring and interacting with students during pair and group work
3. Ensures that students feel at ease asking questions and interacting with the instructor
4. Ensures that students feel at ease interacting with each other

COMMENTS:

# ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND/OR SUMMARY OF THE OBSERVATION,

**SUGGESTIONS** (use additional sheets as needed):

# Observer signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Instructor's comments:**

**Instructor's signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**