Engaging Students in Large Classes

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Large classes – it’s all relative!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>1200</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
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</tbody>
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Challenges

Post-it activity
1. One challenge per post-it
2. Please use Sharpie markers rather than pens
A Vision of Students Today

Getting started: setting the tone
- Arrive early to class
- Stay after class
- Online application

Getting started: a welcoming attitude
- Meet and greet
- Make yourself available
- Act with enthusiasm
- Tell a bit about yourself
Getting started:
Who’s who?

- Role call
- Clickers
- Seating charts
- Name tents
- Student home pages in Blackboard
- Blackboard roster pictures
- Question response technique

Getting started:
making a large class smaller

- Get out from behind the podium
- Walk and teach
- Learning activities
- Polling – student response system (clickers)
- Survey via Blackboard

General challenges

- Disconnect from students
- Difficult to engage in content
- Difficult to gauge teaching effectiveness
- Difficulties assessing student work
Challenges

Post-it results

Lecturing

- Anticipating questions
- Know when it’s dragging
- Plan for what is to be accomplished in the session
- Don’t lecture for the entire class period

Change-up lecture

- Know attention span limitations
- Use a variety of teaching methods
- Use technology and multimedia to enhance learning
- Use interactive lecturing techniques
Change-up lecture diagram

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New content</td>
<td>New or review content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Warm up</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Culminating Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minute active learning</td>
<td>Active learning</td>
<td>10 minute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strategies and solutions

- Use technology to engage learners (YouTube)
- Use active and cooperative learning techniques (polling, full room discussion)
- Use Classroom Assessment Techniques to gauge learning
- Personal approaches (storytelling)

Engaging students through questioning

Wait!

What about those question “thuds???”
Buzz group
- Engages students in course content
- Gives everyone a chance to actively participate
- Allows the instructor an opportunity to see if students have learned a particular concept
- Managing the process (examples)

Interactive teaching methods in a large class

Think/pair/share – timed activity
Tying it together

- Polling activity
- Buzz group
- Lecture interrupted
- Focused watching
- Think/pair/share
- Group management

Unanswered questions

- Review post-its not yet addressed
- Other questions that come to mind

I tried it and it worked for me!
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(University Office of Evaluation and Educational Effectiveness)

teaching and learning – teachASU@asu.edu
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