OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

THE SYLLABUS

**Devise specific learning outcomes:** In the syllabus, make the learning outcomes as specific and clear as possible, and relate these to the assignments and to your grading metrics.

**Describe class format:** Describe in your syllabus the class format. For example: “We will strive for class sessions that are lively, engaging, fun, creative and informative. Our format will combine discussion, presentations, guest speakers, case studies, in-class screenings and analysis.

**Spell out expected student behavior:** Describe in your syllabus the behavior you expect from your students.

FIRST CLASSES

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Learn students’ names
 | * Fill out a questionnaire
 |
| * Introduce yourself
 | * Learn from your students
 |
| * Ask students to introduce themselves
 | * Establish standard of grading
 |

CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Create a welcoming environment
 | * Sit in a circle
 |
| * Foster a sense of belonging and respect:
 | * Make every class writing-intensive
 |
| * Promote active engagement
 | * Encourage high performance
 |
| * Manage large lecture-based classes by trying to learn names, do small group activities, make eye contact as you teach
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CLASSROOM SPECIFICS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Show up early for class
 | * Write the plan for the class on board
 |
| * Take roll
 | * Have the students stand up and stretch
 |
| * Start with student summary of last class
 | * Play short games/relevant ice breakers
 |
| * Have field trips as part of the class
 |  |

CLASSROOM INTERACTIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Make the class interactive
 | * Find a student’s strength
 |
| * Call on students constantly to answer questions:
 | * Encourage shy students to speak
 |
| * Reassure students you will come back to them
 | * Incorporate peer review
 |
| * Ask early for feedback from students
 | * Do a networking exercise
 |
| * Listen actively to students during discussions
 |  |

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Call the supervisor of outstanding students
 | * Give plenty of student feedback
 |
| * Reach out to students who miss a class
 | * Manage your office hours
 |
| * Be responsive to e-mails and calls from students
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