Academic Engagement
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Classroom Types & Interactions

1. Different Classroom Types: Lectures, Recitation/Discussions, Labs

2. Professor’s expectations for each classroom type

3. How you can be the best student in all these situations
Lecture

These are the most common classroom type

- Can be small (<50 students) or large (>500 students)
- Instructor is the one doing most of the talking and will share new knowledge, research, and examples about class topic to help students understand
Lectures: Professor’s expectations

- Expects you to listen attentively and take notes
- Expects you to ask questions if you do not understand
- MS Powerpoint is common tool
  - Instructor might provide slides in advance of lecture but not always

**Professor will also ask questions of the whole class – this happens in large lectures too! They will expect you to answer so you need to be prepared.**
Lectures: How can you prepare

- Sit in the front of the room
- Take notes and listen closely
- Complete all reading assignments BEFORE the lecture session
- Ask questions if you do not understand
  - Raise your hand to answer/ask questions
Recitation/Discussion Sessions

- Smaller class meetings (<30 students)
- Typically led by a Teaching Assistant (TA)
- Chance to review topics, take quizzes, complete interactive activities, and ask questions.
Discussions: Instructor’s expectations

• These classes are very interactive – instructor expects you to participate in the class discussion.
• Instructor expects you to share your ideas and opinions about the topic being discussed.

**For many classes, a percentage of your final grade will be for class participation. You must participate actively in class in order to get a good grade.**
Smaller classes = Greater Interaction

Discussions
• Done in pairs, small groups, or the whole class

Interactive Activities
• Research shows that activities in class—even short activities—help students learn

Group Projects
• Can be short or long-term
• Simulate the “real world”
How can you succeed?

• Complete all reading assignments BEFORE class
• Write down any ideas and questions you had while doing the readings and homework
• Follow the directions given by instructor
• Do your share of the work
• Be enthusiastic and eager to learn
• Volunteer!
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