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 | |

CLASSROOM SPECIFICS

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| --- | --- |
| * 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 |  |