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Managing Large Classes

CALS - The Connected Classroom

General Resources

- [Managing High-Enrollment Online Courses](#) - General tips and tricks. The suggestions are:
  - Replace written activities with objective knowledge checks
  - Use peer review
  - Use TAs effectively
  - Use threaded discussions judiciously
  - Resist the temptation to read and respond to every discussion post
  - Streamline feedback
- [Teaching Large Classes | Center for Teaching | Vanderbilt University](#) - More extensive general overview. Contains sections on:
  - Promoting Student Engagement
  - Handling Student Grades
  - Working with Teaching Assistants
  - Dealing with Cheating
  - Managing Logistical Issues
  - Integrating Technology
- [Teaching Large Classes | The Center for Teaching and Learning](#) - General tips and tricks, with short videos that interview students about what they like and dislike about large classes and what students want instructors of large classes to do.
  - How Can I Reduce the Feeling of Student Anonymity?
  - Use Active Learning Techniques
  - Grading Considerations
  - Practical Issues
  - Additional Resources
- [Tips for Designing and Moderating Large Online Courses - Wiley Education Services](#) - Suggestions for establishing expectations and leveraging resources to manage large classes
  - Reinforcing Expectations
  - Effective Communication & Interactions
  - Timely Grades/Feedback
  - Resources
- [Teaching LARGE Classes](#) - Provides suggestions for managing a large course, as well as a video in which an instructor describes his method
  - How Do I Build Active Learning into My Course?
  - How Do I Manage a Large Course?
  - How do I support TA and UGA teams?

Setting Expectations

- [Setting Learner Expectations - CSU Online](#) - Concrete steps to establish expectations for your course
- [Three-before-me](#) - Outlines a policy that requires students to demonstrate that they tried at three other sources (such as class discussion boards and classmates) before contacting the professor with a question about "material, assignments, technical issues, and/or other related matters concerning the course".

Working with Teaching Assistants

- [Teaching Large Classes - section on Working With Teaching Assistants](#) - Lists a number of approaches for working with Teaching Assistants effectively, including:
  - Grading
    - Have regular grading meetings
    - Use grading rubrics.
    - Divide up grading sections.
  - Handling Grade Complaints
    - Have a formalized system in place

- - Require complaints to be written out and submitted
    - Institute a 24-hour rule
  - Managing TAs Who Lead Discussions, Lab Sessions, and Review Sessions
    - Know Your TAs
    - Hold regular meetings
- Working with Teaching Assistants | Center for Teaching - Outlines some things to think about when you are beginning to work with TAs, including:
  - Why Work with TAs?
  - Considerations for Working with TAs
  - Getting Started with Working with TAs
- Working with Online Teaching Assistants - Suggestions for working with TAs, including:
  - Consider a contract or memorandum of agreement
  - Coordinate in advance
  - Be available for questions and clarification
  - Provide access to information and resources
  - Ask for feedback after the course

Active Learning

- Active Learning in Online Teaching - A detailed outline techniques for implementing active learning in online learning. The topic covered include:
  - Practice with Feedback
  - Peer Learning
  - Structure
  - Some challenges encountered when doing active learning online
  - Putting it all together: Cornell courses using active learning online
- Teaching Large Classes - section on Promoting Student Engagement - An overview of ways to promote student engagement, including specific exercises:
  - What causes students to not participate?
  - Faculty Authority: Combatting perceptions of the instructor as fount of knowledge
  - Instructor demeanor
  - Peer judgment

Peer-review workshop tools for those using a Moodle LMS (other LMS's may have similar functionality – check with your local LMS team)

- Moodle Workshop Activity - General overview of Moodle's Workshop tool.
- Moodle - Workshop peer assessment activity step-by-step (staff/faculty) - IT Knowledgebase - A walkthrough of how to set up a Workshop, including information about how to hide who submitted a draft from reviewers. (Note that the document that students submit has to have the student's name removed as well!)