

Do You Teach classes in large numbers?

Enhancing Effective Teaching Series(8)

Do you teach classes in large numbers? There is no doubt that the size of the class affects your teaching practices and student interaction. Teaching large groups: It means teaching classes that are larger than what a faculty member is used to, regardless of the number.

Effective Practices When Teaching Large Groups:

- Electronic Activities: Employing electronic interaction tools such as: Clickers, which helps to ensure students' understanding, regardless of their number, in a short period.
- Peer Assessment: Divide students into smaller groups allowing them to discuss in a relaxed atmosphere, interact and provide mutual feedback on their performance in the activities and assignments.
- Discuss Rubrics: Rubrics are useful for providing feedback for large groups; presenting grades to students for an activity or assignment and explaining performance levels allows students to understand what performance is expected from them.

Secrets of Excellence in Teaching Large Groups:

- Smart use of the available technical means and applications in: Presenting the scientific material, communicating with students, and managing lecture time.
- Early planning of activities and methods of performance assessment.

When preparing to teach large groups, check out:

- Provide course materials and activities electronically and alert students about their importance.
- Clarify the mechanism of participation and communication inside and outside the classroom.
- Plan at least one interactive activity per lecture not to exceed 5-10 minutes of lecture time; Oral, written or electronic activity.
- Provide a realistic example that simplifies the abstract ideas of the topic of the lecture and remains in memory of students (such as: a short video clip or an attractive story).
- Provide methods of communication outside the lecture time (office hours, e-mail): Some students need to be encouraged to explain the difficulties they face in achieving the course objectives.

Enriching Resources

Susan Ko. (2019). The Why of Teaching Larger Classes: Maintaining Quality and Your Sanity. Lehman College.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQAaZSXhpdE&feature=youtu.be>

Reagan Garang - University of Wisconsin. 2013. Teaching large classes effectively. Skills Development Deanship. King Saud University.

https://arts.ksu.edu.sa/sites/arts.ksu.edu.sa/files/imce_images/tdrys_lfswl_lkbyr.pdf