

TEACHING LARGE CLASSES

This handout will help you teach large classes effectively. For more help, please visit KOLT in SCI Z40.

- ◆ *How can I improve attendance in large classes?*
 - Try to interact with students and learn their names. Email students who often fail to attend.
 - Give students credit for in-class quizzes, activities and assignments.
 - Discuss potential exam questions in class.

- ◆ *How can I improve class participation in large classes?*
 - Credit participation toward the final grade.
 - Organize the class into small groups (3-5 students) that can work on focused questions and exercises.
 - Invite individual students or groups to lead discussion.
 - Call on individual students, even if you don't know their names.
 - Make sure all questions addressed to the students can be answered with some thought and current knowledge.

- ◆ *How can I teach students who have different abilities and learning preferences?*
 - Vary learning experiences through a range of teaching techniques, including audio-visual presentations, group discussions and kinesthetic activities. Kinesthetic activities allow students to move around the classroom and learn through hands-on participation. Such activities might include role plays, presentations and debates.
 - Use peer teaching activities in class.
 - Contact *KOLT* (ext. 1468) to see if tutoring is offered for your course.

- ◆ *How should I work with my TAs?*
 - Meet the TA at the beginning of the semester to discuss your needs and expectations.
 - Maintain close contact with the TA throughout the semester. Request ongoing feedback on student performance and the nature of the TA's interaction with the students.
 - Give your TA guidance on getting students involved in problem solving sessions.
 - Arrange practice PS or DS labs for your TA in order to provide interactive feedback.



Please consult the following articles for more information on teaching large classes:

- Penn State University's Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence. *Teaching Large Classes*.
<http://www.schreyerinstitute.psu.edu/Tools/Large/>

- Australian Universities Teaching Committee (AUTC).
The Teaching Large Classes Project.
<http://www.tedi.uq.edu.au/LargeClasses/>

- Ferris State University.
Large Classes: A Teaching Guide.
http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/academics/center/teaching_and_learning_Tips/Developing%20Effective%20Lectures/LargeClasses.htm