Setting the Stage for an Engaged Semester

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Participants will leave this workshop with concrete practices that promote student engagement.

We will focus on practices that:

• Foster connections,
• Set the tone for a positive course environment,
• Provide clear/transparent expectations for students, and
• Whet students’ appetites for course content.
Community Norms for Our Session

1. Mute unless you are speaking
2. If you must step away briefly, come back as soon as you are able
3. Any sincere contribution will be respected
4. Be respectful when challenging others and be open to challenges of your own views
Cognitive Load Theory

Intrinsic Load (complexity of new information)

Germaine Load (linking new info with current info)

Extraneous Load (unnecessary and distracting info)

Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT)

A framework for developing, explaining, and discussing class activities and assignments.

Instructors should explicitly describe the:
- Purpose
- Task
- Criteria

Our cognitive bandwidth is limited
Expectancy Value Theory

Expectancy
- Success is expected
- Effort will pay off

Value
- Intrinsic
- Utility
- Attainment
- Perceived cost

Motivation

Expectancy x Value = Motivation
Setting the Stage for Engaged Learning

1. Introduce yourself to students
2. Help students learn about each other
3. Clarify learning objectives and expectations
4. Collect info on your students’ knowledge and future goals
5. Set the tone for the course
6. Whet students’ appetite for course content
Activity

  (link is case sensitive)

• What ideas do you have for activities that leverage these principles?
  (link is case sensitive)
Questions?
Don’t hesitate to reach out!
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What do you do if you sense that the wheels are falling off the wagon?
Resources

- Fostering Connection in Hybrid and Online Formats
- Trauma-informed Teaching
- Make the Most of the First Day of Class (Eberly Center)
- Strategies and Tips for Teaching Hybrid and Remote Courses (Williams College)
- Workload Estimator 2.0
- Resilient Educator: Mid-Year Check-in
- Designing courses and assignments to cultivate a culture of academic integrity