2016 Teaching Assistant Orientation

Managing and Connecting with Students in Large Classes
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Session Summary
Teaching large classes effectively requires a set of different strategies and methods than teaching smaller classes. Through careful planning, large classes can be an exciting teaching and learning experience for the instructor and the students. You must be proactive to manage tasks, distractions, passive students, and class activities.

Key Concepts
- Getting organized and following principles of good teaching will help you stay on task and benefit your students. Use Blackboard to organize your course and help manage common teaching tasks, like contacting students, collecting assignments, and recording grades.
- With a large course, your syllabus is a particularly important resource. A well-designed syllabus can help students understand the course structure and policies, as well as decrease the amount of questions you receive from students.
- When preparing lectures, focus on student outcomes and help them make connections. Practice, practice, practice. You will become more comfortable with experience. Know your content and share your enthusiasm.
- Engage your students in the teaching and learning process. When possible, emphasize real-world application of the concepts. Encourage interaction amongst students. Engaged students will be easier to manage.

Next Steps
Request your Blackboard course, and learn more about Blackboard at niu.edu/blackboard. You can also attend the Blackboard I workshop offered by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center.

Resources
See the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center's Instructional Guide for useful strategies on teaching and managing your classes at: facdev.niu.edu/instructionalguide

Got Questions?
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