

Teaching Tips
Center for Teaching and Learning
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Syllabus Related

- Include guidelines of your expectations
- Include guidelines for behaviors expected in class
- Encourage respect for diverse perspectives
- Discuss the syllabus more than once
- Consider a syllabus “quiz” or recorded video tour of the syllabus

Welcome Student Participation

- Add a welcome announcement to each course on MyGateway
- Help students meet one another as you learn their names
- Welcome latecomers and gently urge them to catch up by conferring with a classmate
- Use “Wait Time”: offer time to think about a question before calling on someone to respond to it
- Reduce the anxiety of responding by first “talking to a neighbor”

Make Course Organization Public

- Include a semester schedule with due dates, test dates, academic calendar dates (e.g. last day to withdraw, etc.)
- Note that the calendar is “subject to modification”
- Post an agenda for class meetings: students want to know your plan
- Take a restroom break in classes which meet for more than 75 minutes
- Present material that is already well organized: charts and graphs help illustrate complex concepts

Effective Learning is Engaging for Students and Professors

- Plan a variety of activities to illustrate concepts and ideas: discussion, small groups, videos, in-class exercises, case studies, online discussions
- Project slides that augment what you say
- Limit the messages you send each half hour – check for student understanding
- Listen to students’ questions, comments, interpretations, misconceptions
- Refer students to UMSL resources designed to support their academic success
- Rely on campus resources that support instruction

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