



How to Have a Successful First Day of Classes

- Arrive early to the classroom to set up
- Be warm and welcoming to students as they arrive
 - Say hello
 - Smile
 - Make eye contact
- For the first couple classes, give the students time to find the classroom and allow them to settle in before starting
- Introduce yourself to the class
 - Prior education
 - Your interesting experiences related to course outline
 - What you read over the summer, conferences and/or workshops you attended, etc
 - Share your area of research
- Create a mutual understanding of the expectations of respect in the classroom
 - It is helpful to collaborate with the students when establishing expectations
 - Allow them to add/take away



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- Create a safe space for your students
- Include as much diversity as possible within your curriculum
 - Case studies, visuals, quotes, readings, etc.
- Refer to “Office hours” as “Student help hours”
 - Describe how, when, and why students should use them
 - Explain how to schedule a meeting
 - Online or in-person
 - Detailed description or video to show location of office
- Housekeeping
 - Location of bathrooms
 - Explain how disrespectful behaviour will be addressed
 - Encourage students to call you in if they feel harmed or offended by any of your statements (see also "Interrupting Bias: Calling Out vs. Calling In" http://www.racialequityvtnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Interrupting-Bias_-_Calling-Out-vs.-Calling-In-REVISED-Aug-2018-1.pdf)



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- Do NOT discourage students by talking about the percentages of failure in previous classes
 - i.e., “Look to your right and left, 50% will fail by December.”
- Discuss the outline of the course
 - Clarify the learning objectives and goals of the course
 - Use visuals (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) when sharing/highlighting the syllabus
 - Explain the types of evaluations, their connection to the objectives, their value and how they will be graded
 - Disclose how and when students will receive feedback
- Rather than starting to lecture or share content, inspire the students with an interesting video or story based on or related to your course content
 - i.e., a teaser or movie trailer
- Give closure to each class by ending with a brief synopsis of the class
- Say good bye in a way that is similar to how you started and a warm farewell