Cultural Differences in the Classroom

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US Classroom Environment

- Relaxed Atmosphere
- Technology Friendly
- Student Centered
- Critical Thinking
- Students Freely Express Opinions
- Active Learning
  - In class discussion/debate
  - Presentation
  - Role-playing
  - Team-work
  - Papers
  - Case study
US Classroom Environment

- Various class formats
  - Lectures (LEC)
  - Labs (LAB)
  - Seminars (SEM)
  - Discussion sections (DIS)

- Office hours (OH) outside of class

- Multimedia technology
  - Power Point
  - Recording
  - Ctools & Canvas
Class Formats

**Lecture**
- Instructor is principally responsible for the preparation of the subject matter and conduct of class.
- One-way lecture and/or back-and-forth exchange of ideas.

**Seminar**
- Students are principally responsible for preparing materials and leading class discussions.
- Emphasis on individual research and peer-exchange of knowledge.

**Recitation**
- Instructor is principally responsible for the preparation of subject matter and leading students in a two-way analysis of presented material.
Class Formats

Laboratory
➢ Students engage in exercises and/or investigations under the direction and supervision of the instructor.
➢ This usually supplements a lecture/seminar.

Discussion
➢ Students and instructor engage in a two-way communication usually based upon the contents of a lecture.

Independent Study
➢ Students receive individual consultation and guidance from the instructor.
➢ Total student effort should be comparable to that involved in lecture or seminar courses.
Preparing for Class: enjoy the learning experience

- Go through the readings efficiently and strategically.
- Note-taking, annotation, citation and bibliographic software- EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley
- During discussion- don’t hesitate to respectfully and politely push back/disagree with your colleagues or to critique the readings.
- In seminar/recitation classes, you are generally expected to speak and contribute to the discussion. However, if you are not comfortable doing this, let the professor know.
Preparing for Class: enjoy the learning experience

- Being honest and forthcoming can be very rewarding!

- Deadlines

- Do whatever you can to make the class an enjoyable learning experience - not a stressful one! The key is to be **comfortable**.
Office Hours

A time set aside by your professor/GSI to meet with students outside of class in a more personal environment

■ Expectations
  ➢ Be respectful, open, and inquiring

■ Success Tips
  ➢ Know the time and location for the office hours before you visit
  ➢ Have questions prepared
  ➢ Build personal relationships with your professor/GSI
Useful Technology

Canvas: https://umich.instructure.com/
Ctools: https://ctools.umich.edu/portal
Improving English Proficiency

- Take courses at English Language Institute
  www.lsa.umich.edu/eli
- Attend social events (college, department, International Center, etc.)
- Join Sweetland Writing Center
- International Center Orientation Workshops:
  - Finding Your Voice: In Classes and Your Department
  - Communicating by Email
  - Communicating with Your Academic and Research Advisors (for graduate students only)
Classroom Expectation
Group Activity

- Divide into groups
- Discuss the question on each slide - 30 seconds
- Practice your classroom participation - there are prizes!
Is it okay…?

To greet my professors/GSIs with their first name?

- Start with Dr. ____ or Prof. ____ or Mr./Ms. ____, be open to first names when preferred.
Is it okay…?

- To eat during class?
  - Yes (probably)!
  - Food should not have strong smell
  - Please eat quietly
Is it okay…?

- To avoid asking and answering questions in class because of language challenges?
  - No!
  - Improve your English skills by practicing and taking risks
Is it okay…?

- To ignore my University of Michigan email account?
  - No!
  - Everyone at U-M communicates through university email, and you will miss important information.
Is it okay…?

- To leave the classroom before the class is over?
  - No, unless you have a legitimate reason and are given permission in advanced AND
  - Yes, you are in charge of your own learning
Is it okay…?

- To ask my class partners to contribute more time and effort to our group project?
  
  ➢ Yes!
  ➢ It is their responsibility to participate and you shouldn’t be the only one working on a group project.
To paraphrase someone else’s writing in your own essay?

- Yes. However, if the words and/or ideas you express originated elsewhere, **proper citations are required.**
Is it okay…?

- To request a change in assignment due dates or exam dates?
  - Maybe.
  - It depends on the policy of the instructor and the reason for your request.
Campus Resources

- English Improvement
  - Language Resources Center
  - English Language Institution
  - Sweetland Writing Center
  - International Center Workshops

- Career Development
  - Career Center
  - Career Fairs

- Personal Interest
  - Student organizations (1,356 to choose from!)

- Academic and Professional Resources
  - Rackham Graduate School
  - Your college’s website
  - Libraries
  - Academic Advisors
  - Math Lab
  - Science Learning Center
Common Campus Terms

http://parents.umich.edu/page/u-m-lingo

- Michigan time
- Wolverine Access
- Uniqname
- LSA
- UGLi
- CCL
- Pierpont
- CCRB/NCRB/IMSB
Academic & Professional Integrity

Academic Misconduct
➢ Cheating/obtaining improper advantage
➢ Plagiarism
➢ Research misconduct
➢ Dishonesty in publication
➢ Abuse of confidentiality
➢ Misuse of computer facilities

Professional Misconduct
➢ Misrepresentation of one’s credentials or status, including professional experience and positions held
➢ Unethical consulting activity
➢ Conflicts of interests

Often unintentional - be aware of the policies!
Academic Integrity & Misconduct

- Potential consequences of academic misconduct include loss of legal immigration status

- Ignorance of academic integrity policies is NOT an acceptable explanation for academic misconduct

- Honor Codes and Academic Integrity policies are published by each School and College
Academic Integrity & Misconduct

- LSA academic integrity guidelines
- Rackham academic and professional integrity policy
Remember to Go Blue!

G: Go to class prepared
O: Organize your time wisely
B: Be ready to participate in class
L: Learn by observing, thinking, doing, and asking
U: Utilize campus resources
E: Enjoy yourself while adapting to your academic environment.
Thank You!

Please complete the Workshop Evaluation.
Your feedback is valuable to us and will help us to improve the experience for future participants.

bit.ly/umicrientation