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

➢ Success Tips
  ○ Preview + review
  ○ Participate and take notes
  ○ Ask questions

Seminar

➢ Format varies
  ○ Guest lecture
  ○ Led by students with class discussions

➢ Success Tips
  ○ Be prepared
  ○ Be open-minded
Class Formats

Laboratory & Recitation
- A supplement of a lecture
- Smaller class size
- Flexible section choices
- Exercises directly related to the lecture materials supervised by instructor/GSI
- Success Tips
  - Ask why - understand the science behind the experiments
  - Be a good team player

Independent Study
- A type of flexible course credit that varies among different programs
- Students receive individual consultation and guidance from the instructor
- Success Tips
  - Ask your program coordinator
Preparing for Class:

➢ **Read the syllabus** carefully for each class
  - Important days (assignment due days, exam days, no-class days...)
  - Requirements of homework submission (paper version, canvas...)
  - Grading scale
  - Deadline extension / makeup exams policy

➢ Find your own way of **taking notes**
  - Cornell note taking template
  - Notebook / laptop / ipad / taking picture of the notes
  - Software to organize annotation/citation/bibliography: endNote, Zotero, Mendeley
Def 1.2: A regular estimator $\hat{\theta}$ is asymptotically linear if
$$\hat{\theta} = \theta(\mathbf{X}) + \frac{1}{n} \frac{d}{d\theta} \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X}) + o_p(n^{-1})$$
where $\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X})$ is called the influence function of $\hat{\theta}$ satisfying $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}) = 0$ and $\hat{\theta} \in L^2(\mathbb{P})$.

Hence, $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}(\theta(\mathbf{X})) + \frac{1}{n} \frac{d}{d\theta} \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X}) + o_p(n^{-1})$.

The function $\mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X})$ is called the efficient influence function, denoted by $\hat{\theta}$. In general, $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}(\theta(\mathbf{X})) + \frac{1}{n} \frac{d}{d\theta} \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X}) + o_p(n^{-1})$.

In particular, $\mathbb{E}(\hat{\theta}) = \mathbb{E}(\theta(\mathbf{X})) + \frac{1}{n} \frac{d}{d\theta} \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X}) + o_p(n^{-1})$.

Then 1.3: (Loewner’s $\mathbb{H}^n$ formula is a special case).

Suppose $\mathbb{E}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}(\theta(\mathbf{X})) + \frac{1}{n} \frac{d}{d\theta} \mathbb{E}(\mathbf{X}) + o_p(n^{-1})$.

2. Efficient Likelihood Estimation

Def 2.1: Let $\mathbb{P}$ be a probability measure and let $\mathbb{Q}$ be a sub-probability measure on $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{A})$, with densities $p$ and $q$ wrt a a-finite measure $\mu$ ($\mu = \mathbb{P} + \mathbb{Q}$ always holds). Then the Kullback-Leibler information is
$$K(P, Q) = \mathbb{E}_p \log \frac{dP}{dQ}$$

Note: $0 \leq K(P, Q) < \infty$.
Preparing for Class:

➢ **Read papers** efficiently and strategically
  - Remember 3 things
    - Keywords in the title
    - Primary authors’ last names
    - Journal name (publication year)
    - Eg: *A and B developed C method*, which is published on *D Journal* in 2016
  - Start with abstract, move forward to method and conclusion section for detail
  - Highlight/add comment while reading
  - Summarize the main points in your words
Join the Class Discussion

➢ What prevent us from freely joining the class discussion?
  ○ Not used to the feel-free-to-ask-question environment
  ○ Don’t think that fast in class
  ○ Lack of confidence
    ■ Afraid to disagree with others
    ■ Language concerns
    ■ Questions too simple to ask

➢ Solutions
  ○ Be familiar with the topic before go to the class
  ○ It’s OK to question/disagree with your classmates/professors/reading materials
  ○ Be confident
Go to the Office Hours

➢ Highly recommend!!!
➢ Check the time and location before you go
➢ Have questions prepared or just show up and listen to others’ questions
➢ Build personal relationship with your professor
Useful Technology

Generally available software: http://its.umich.edu/computing/computers-software
CAEN environment: https://caen.engin.umich.edu/software/

Happening @ Michigan

M Farmers Market at Ad Serv
July 25, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Administrative Services Building

More Featured Events

News
UNIVERSITY RECORD
Campus briefs
Classroom Expectation

Group Activity

- Turn to your neighbors
- Discuss the question on each slide - 30 seconds
- Practice your classroom participation: Speak out, and you will get a prize!
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!
  - 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!
  - UM email is your professional communication tool
  - Avoid accumulating 100+ emails and delete in 1 click
  - Download the gmail app
Is it okay…?

To leave the classroom before the class is over?

- No, unless you have a legitimate reason and are given permission in advance
  AND
- Yes, you are in charge of your own learning
Is it okay…?

- To ask your partners to contribute more time and effort to the group project, if you feel like you are doing all the work?

  ➢ Yes!
  ➢ It is their responsibility to participate and you shouldn’t be the only one working on a group project.
Is it okay…?

- 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 work on your homework assignment together with your classmates?
  
  - Yes!
  
  - You are encouraged to discuss homework problems with your classmates. But you are required to hand in your own copy
Is it okay…?

To go to class when you are sick?

- No!
- You will only get others sick and make yourself worse.
- Instructors will likely encourage you to stay home if you are sick and are very accommodating with regards to helping students catch up.
Is it okay…?

To bring notes to your exams?

- Maybe
- Some instructors allow cheat sheets
Improving English Proficiency

➢ Take courses at English Language Institute (ELI)
➢ Join Sweetland Writing Center
➢ Revise paper at writing lab in your department
➢ Attend social events (college, department, International Center, etc.)
➢ International Center Summer Orientation Workshops:
  ○ Writing Effective Emails
  ○ Communicating with Your Academic and Research Advisors (for graduate students only)
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 \textit{NOT} an acceptable explanation for academic misconduct

- Honor Codes and Academic Integrity policies are published by each School and College
Campus Resources

- Academic and Professional Resources
  - Rackham Graduate School
  - Your college’s website
  - Libraries
    - International Center Orientation Workshop: Library Basics
  - Academic Advisors
  - Math lab
  - Science Learning Center

- Career Development
  - Career Center
  - Career Fairs

- Personal Interest
  - Student organizations (1,550 to choose from!)
  - Festifall is Friday, September 7, 2018 from 2:00pm-6:00pm on the Central Campus Diag
  - Northfest is Monday, September 3rd, 2018 from 11:00am-2:00pm at Pierpont Commons
Common Campus Terms

■ NO MORE Michigan time
■ Wolverine Access
■ Uniqname / UMID
■ LSA: College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
■ UGLi (Shapiro) / Hatcher / Taubman / Duderstadt
■ CCTC: Central Campus Transit Center
■ CCRB/NCRB/IMSB: Recreation Buildings
Fun Fact

Don’t step on the “M” block on the diag, otherwise you will fail your first exam!
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. You will receive details in your umich email soon.

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