

## Possible Goals for the First Day of Class

- **Motivating Students re course outcomes**
  - Student engagement will be greater when you **Provide Motivation** at the first meeting through student-centered activities such as those demonstrated in the video vignettes:
    - ✓ Do vivid demonstrations
    - ✓ Do something attention-getting
    - ✓ Market the course benefits for students
- **Framing the Course content:**
  - When you **Frame the Entire Course** on the first day, students understand more about its value for them – present **the message in miniature**. Choose from some of the following:
    - ✓ Course outcomes
    - ✓ Course *big* questions
    - ✓ Course flow chart/outline
    - ✓ Key elements of the course syllabus
    - ✓ Course fit in major or program
- **Establishing Expectations for workload:**
  - By **Establishing Expectations for Workload**, you enable the students to be realistic about what the course will require of them. Be sure to explain outside-of-class student preparations (e.g., 6 hours per week), and cite past students as the authorities on this.
- **Assessing Students informally**
  - **Assessing Student Knowledge** helps you to gauge how well your course design meets the needs of the class. It can also help students understand what is expected of them. Keep this informal – you may include a mix of the following:
    - ✓ Prior knowledge of course concepts
    - ✓ mis/alternate conceptions
    - ✓ Attitudes towards this subject or course
- **Creating a Comfortable class Climate**
  - **Creating a Comfortable Class Climate** allows students to become comfortable with their peers, the faculty member, and their perception of how the course will be conducted
- **Engaging with course Content**
  - By having students **Engage with Course Content** on the very first day, you can support all of the goals above and generate excitement and enthusiasm.
- **Informing on Essential Administration and immediate student tasks**
  - You will always want to **Inform on Essential Administration**, but don't let this dominate the first class – you can always follow up in other ways. Also, don't forget to **Set Up the Week Ahead and/or the Next Class**. (Do you need to have a quiz on the syllabus to reinforce the importance of students investing time in comprehending the information it contains?)

## Class Planning Template

Time	Activity	Goal(s)	Resources	Assessment/comments <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Leave some space for comments after the class, to help you make changes for the next time around!

Time	Activity	Goal(s)	Resources	Assessment/comments

*Adapted from the Class Planning Template of the Centre for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo*