Overcoming barriers to learning in large classrooms

Using simple technologies & techniques in a large classroom to facilitate learning for all

Outline

- Who am I?
- What do I teach?
- How do I teach?
 - Information overload
 - Technologies I use
 - Not so technical strategies I use
- UDL in my courses
 - Strive to provide multiple ways for students to interact with the course material

How do you learn?



Turn to your neighbor and put these 7 types of learning in order in terms of retention rate.

How do you learn?



Adapted from National Training Laboratories, Bethel, Maine

Clicker Question So if we know traditional lectures aren't as effective, why do lectures persist?

- A. Professors feel more comfortable teaching the way they were taught
- B. Lectures aren't all bad, facts need to be delivered somehow
- C. Lectures are cheap
- D. Most campus classroom spaces are built for lectures
- E. All of the above

Let's get technical

- iClickers
- Lecture Capture
- Annotated PPT

iClickers

- Formative assessments
 - Lecture for a few minutes and stop for iClicker
 - Immediate feedback about course in general (e.g. pace, use of technology, etc.)
- Quizzes
- Think-pair-share



Clicker Question Making recorded lectures available to students always decreases class attendance.

a.True

b. False

Lecture Capture

- Attendance not affected
- Echo 360 (others: Panapto, Camtasia, etc.)

Daily attendance with or without video lecture capture



Annotated PPT

- Tablets
 - External tablet
 - Tablet PC
- Interactive notes
- Remindful of old chalkboard days but with more benefits

Not so technical strategies

- Group Exams
- Cheat sheets
- Hands-on models and Classroom flipping
 - Magnetic board activity
 - 3-D model activity

Group Exams

- Problem-based learning
- Collaborative learning
- Peer teaching



Permission to use these photographs was granted by the students.

Cheat Sheets

- Helps students move beyond memorization
- Helps teacher move beyond writing memorization questions



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Hands-on Models & Class Flipping

- 1. Antibody Epitope Activity
- 2. Translation Activity

Why classroom flipping?



A National Training Laboratories study (2005) indicates that less than five percent of information delivered through lecture format is retained.

Antibody Epitope Activity

Bloom Level	Learning Goal	Learning Outcome	Activity	Assessment
3	Students will understand that one antigen can have several antibody epitopes.	Students will be able to demonstrate that one antigen can have more than one epitope	Students will match antibody light and heavy chains to corresponding epitopes on a viral antigen using 3-D printed antibody epitope models. *What alternative activity(s) is needed to achieve UDL?	Formative: clicker quiz Summative: exam questions

Adapted from Scientific Teaching by Jo Handlesman

Our model

- Influenza A virus cross-section
 - Neuraminidase (NA)
 - Hemagglutinin (HA)
 - 4:1 HA:NA ratio
 - M2 ion channel
- 2 anti-HA antibodies
 - Anti-cone antibody
 - Anti-sphere antibody



The Kit



What epitope does the combination of Heavy chain Red and light chain Green bind to?

a. A b. B c. C

d. D e. None of these



Answer: B

The heavy chain **Red** and light chain **Green** bind to epitope B



Translation Activity

Bloom Level	Learning Goal	Learning Outcome	Activity	Assessment
3	Students will understand the relationship between genes and proteins	Students will be able to generate mRNA and protein from DNA	Students will use magnets to "act out" transcription and translation to produce a protein with the correct amino acid sequence *What alternative activity(s) is needed to achieve UDL?	Formative: clicker quiz Summative: exam questions

The Kit



Metal sheet 12" x 12" Home Depot

"RAMS"





What amino acid will aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase add to the tRNA with the anticodon sequence 3' UAC 5'?

a. Met: M b. fMet: M_f c. Tyr: Y

What types of active learning were employed in these activities?

- Manipulation of kit pieces
 - Because scientists are kinesthetic learners

- Groups of 3-4 students
 - Fosters "student talk" and peer teaching

- Clickers
 - Formative assessment

UDL in my course

- Lecture Capture
 - International students
 - Nontraditional students
 - Learning disabilities
- Accessibility in non-HTML content
 - Word documents
 - PDF documents
 - PowerPoint

http://webaim.org/techniques/word/

http://accessibility.arl.org/standards-best-practices/ 2014 Association of Research Librairies

Examples of Word & PDF docs my students can download before class

Lysozyme –

Enzyme found in:



Mode of action:

Bacteria That Lack a Cell Wall

Mycoplasma species have extremely variable shape



Cytoplasmic membrane contains sterols that increase strength

Accessibility in Word

Word Accessibility Checker





Alternative text for images

- Images should be given appropriate alternative text in Word.
- This alt text will be read by a screen reader in a Word file and should remain intact when exporting to HTML or PDF.
- Many images have associated text, but it often doesn't make sense to the reader.



Headings

- Heading structure
- Many people do not use true styles in Word.
- Word styles
- Add1st, 2nd, or 3rd level headings using Ctrl + Alt + 1, 2, or 3 (Cmd + Option on a Mac).

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Convert Word to PDF

- Many Word documents end up as PDF files.
- Convenient way to preserve formatting and accessibility information, assuming the file is converted correctly.



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Other considerations

- Use true numbered and bulleted lists.
- Use sufficient font size (12+).
- Provide good contrast.
- Do not rely on color alone to convey meaning.
- Use true columns, not table or columns created by hand with the Tab key.
- Provide a table of contents for long documents.
- Use simple language.

Thank you!

