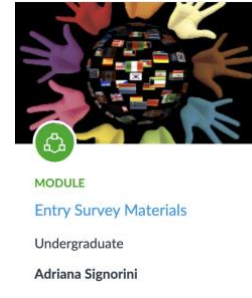


Dear All,

I would like to encourage you (if you don't do this already) to consider some ideas as you start your teaching this semester.

- 1) Become familiar with who your students are to build rapport and understand students' lived experiences as well as preparation for the course. The following resource in CatCourses consists of an entry survey and how to respond to students based on results. To import directly the survey to your course go to CatCourses → Commons → Filter by Templates at UCM → Entry Survey. Here is a screenshot of the folder



- 2) Obtain student buy-in into your teaching practices to avoid resistance to the active learning activities you want to implement and preparation for the class readings.
 - [First-day questions for the learner-centered classroom](#). This essay by Gary Smith makes some great points for why you want to get to know who your students are and have open conversations with them about your teaching methods and choices at the beginning of the semester.
 - [Measuring actual learning versus the feeling of learning in response to being actively engaged in the classroom](#). This article provides evidence that students learn more in an active classroom. You may have tried active learning and been disheartened by how students respond. I hope this article encourages you to incorporate active learning activities in your teaching again.

Finally, the first weeks of class are essential to help set expectations for the rest of the semester. If you would like a sounding board for any ideas you want to try in class at the beginning or brainstorm any new teaching techniques you are planning to try in general, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Looking forward to supporting your teaching!

Adriana

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