Using Digital Communities to Support Students in Large Online Classes

Please note the following Zoom housekeeping items

Select the Chat to introduce yourself

Remain on mute when not speaking

Raise hand to come on mic during discussions

Please take a minute to share what brought you here today in the Zoom chat.
What brings us here today?

About Indiana University and Chemistry Courses

- Public research institution
- Founded in 1820, IU Bloomington is the flagship campus of IU’s seven campuses and two regional centers statewide.
- Chemistry Department serves primarily majors from other departments
  - General chemistry: ~700 students; Organic chemistry: ~400-500; Inorganic chemistry: ~120-180
- While primarily in-person, all lecture and laboratory courses were moved online Spring 2020
Join the Conversation

What types of classes do you teach? (Select all that apply)

- Asynchronous Online
- Synchronous Online
- Hybrid (some in-person component)
- Face-to-Face
In large classes, how do we...

- Build a sense of community and encourage our students to help one another?
- Allow all students a chance to be heard?
- Cut down on emails so students are getting the help they need without faculty being tied to email?

All without overwhelming ourselves with set-up and day-to-day manage.

Online can bring additional challenges...

- Encourage student interaction and engagement in an online environment
- Helping students manage course expectations, due dates, etc...
Join the Conversation

What challenges have you faced creating a sense of community in your classes?

Bringing Everyone Together: Using Digital Communities
Meet InScribe

Helping students connect to answers, resources, and individuals to help them success in school and beyond.

InScribe communities work across the entire student journey.

Students have one place to go, no matter the topic or time of day.
InScribe Digital Communities

Course Content

- Student pool knowledge to help one another;
- Upload structures, work, videos, or equations to have other help identify issues;
- Share helpful resources
Building Community

- Advertise clubs or events on campus
- Get advice for future courses
- Share course-related jokes or memes

Students Supporting Students

- I like writing things out in my planner and keeping track of what all I did today. It helps me feel like I did something rather than settling into my panic and anxiety.
- Make a friend in the class and study together. Even just having someone you know helps me because I know I have one person who can try and help me.
- Go to office hours. I have slowly learned that is the best way to get professors notice. If you frequent office hours, they know you are trying and putting in the work.

But in my other classes, I feel like the professor(s) aren't doing as much as they should to help me figure out what I am doing wrong on exams and quizzes and they aren't going to give solutions to the exams. I did really horrible on the first exam but have no clue where I went wrong. Would anyone be able to help me with my calc 3, first off, and second how should I keep myself motivated to keep going through the class. This sounds silly as I am saying it but I don't want to put in the effort if it feels like my professors are giving me nothing. Is there any tips people have about staying focused and seeing the bigger picture?

This may sound silly, but for a bigger picture, try creating a collage (or even just a single picture) or write something that illustrates what your goals are for the future. This can subtly help remind you why you are persevering through a challenging course, putting up with an awful professor, etc... Ultimately, that one awful class experience won't matter when you accomplish what you are working toward!
Course Logistics

- Quickly double-check assignment due dates
- Clarify assignment/course expectations
  (all without the instructor!)

Save Instructor Time

- Less email and repetitive questions!
- Quickly responding to student issues (and catching your own!)
- Students answer each other's questions- just endorse
Course Advantages

- Can access on online or via Canvas app
- Students get answers more quickly than traditional email
- Instructors are not replying to the same question multiple times
- Students can ask/post anonymously (option)
- Use those “good answers” to identify future UTINs/UTAs!

Join the Conversation

Have questions? Let us know live or in the Zoom chat- we would love to answer them!
Evaluate Sessions and Win!

- Navigate to specific session to evaluate
- Select “Evaluate Session” on session details screen
  - Complete session evaluation*

*Each session evaluation completed (limited to one per person per session) = one contest entry. **Five (5) $25 gift cards** will be awarded.