

Challenges of Large Online Synchronous Classrooms

Part 1 Instructions:

Identify any challenges that you have experienced or might experience in a large online synchronous classroom. You may 'upvote' responses copy-pasting this emoji - 🐱

Write your responses in the table below (one challenge per cell):

Boring Presentations 🐱 🐱	Unstable internet connectionsOr 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱	Lack of participation 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱	Disconnection of the internet 🐱 🐱 🐱	
Different time zones 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱	Technical constraints 🐱		Students not having appropriate technology 🐱 🐱	Distraction 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱
Technical issues 🐱 🐱	Low attendance 🐱	Lack of incentive 🐱		Breakout groups in Blackboard Collaborate malfunctioning!! Big waste of time 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱
Varied backgrounds and understanding 🐱 🐱	Students being less inclined to participate 🐱 🐱	Moving around between groups (in group discussions and case studies) 🐱 🐱	Lack of feedback from students (that you'd normally get with body language) 🐱 🐱 🐱	Other people in the room in meetings (or kids demanding attention) 🐱
Students leave the online session 🐱 🐱	Instructor juggling taking questions from chat/audio while presenting 🐱	Challenges with Team activities	Technical issues 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱 🐱	

<p>Lack of feedback for instructor when not being face-to-face (visual cues etc) 🐱</p>	<p>Distractions - students start working on other course content, checking e-mail, etc. 🐱🐱🐱</p>	<p>Having to have smaller groups for better monitoring, adds to the number of groups and workload of TAs and instructors 🐱🐱</p>		<p>Losing interest 🐱🐱🐱</p>
<p>Getting bored 🐱🐱</p>		<p>People may feel more shy/reserved in online setting 🐱</p>		<p>Lack of encouragement</p>
<p>Wasting time fixing technical issues while trying to present at the same time</p>	<p>Controlling feedback per person 🐱</p>			
<p>Keeping the speed of teaching 🐱🐱</p>		<p>Answering the questions</p>		

Part 2 Instructions:

In your breakout group, select one of the challenges identified above. In the table below, discuss and fill out:

- 1) How would you address the challenge as it might be happening in real time?
- 2) How would you prevent the challenge from arising?

Breakout Room 1: Losing interest, lack of participation

Address challenge	Prevent challenge
Participation points for completing polls? Making the class more interactive e.g. asking frequent questions rather than lecturing throughout	Incorporate real-time responses (polls, reactions, video) Use break out groups (chose leader to be in charge of giving group's response to main group) - other members can have other responsibilities like note taking

Breakout Room 2:

Address challenge	Prevent challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - give instructions in multiple channels, e.g. by voice, in chat, through an email sent to class before/during class so that students with unstable connections don't miss important information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encourage professors to balance synchronous and asynchronous participation so that students experiencing technical difficulties don't lose marks

Breakout Room 3: Keeping the speed of teaching

Address challenge	Prevent challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring that questions are asked in a specific allotted time period - students will know that their questions will be answered at some point, just not necessarily right away. This might 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where possible, try to communicate verbally (instead of typing/writing) - Using a solid platform without mind-boggling issues can prevent it - Try to get as much of the online

<p>help ensure the flow of the lecture keeps going.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TAs can possibly help here, by being present in the lecture and answering student questions as they come in - TAs can also be there to help students fix any technical issues 	<p>content to the students before the lecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uploading skeleton notes
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Breakout Room 4: Getting Distracted

Address challenge	Prevent challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Being distracted by device, having to share screen at the same time -Lack of interest, simplifying the content, using more real life examples and applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Select an appropriate work space. <p>Clear communication, using the tools (polls, status) to increase the engagement and reduce distraction</p> <p>Breaking lecture frequently to get feedback and other polls</p> <p>Engagement activities.</p>

Breakout Room 5: Lack of feedback from students (that you'd normally get with body language)

Address challenge	Prevent challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use online polls, or pauses to ask agree/disagree if it's okay to move on, if students are confused or left behind - - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be open at the beginning of the class that this may be a challenge but that instructors want to do their best to get feedback from students - Make students aware of all of the ways in which you want to incorporate their feedback

Breakout Room 6: Lack of participation:

Address challenge	Prevent challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address by polls - Pop up quizzes with instant response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance list - Group activity

Breakout Room 7: Technical issues

Address challenge	Prevent challenge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have designated TAs that maybe are there just to oversee technical issues that may arise, answer questions in the chat, etc. while other TA/instructor is giving the lecture - If bandwidth issues arise, can ask everyone to turn their videos off to make the connection better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give proper instructions to students before session about the types of technical issues and how to prevent them (e.g. some issues are related to web browsers and students can prevent it by using an appropriate browser. if they know beforehand, they won't have problem) - Practice with platform that you are using before lecture/dry run - Ask students to become familiar with the platform you are using before class (i.e. get familiar with padlet before hand)

Breakout Room 8: Time Zones

Address challenge:	Prevent challenge
<p>Different Time Zones</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sending out a survey or poll to the students before scheduling the class ● Arranging alternate sessions at different times (i.e. 9am PST and the next one at 9pm PST) ● Recording the solution and upload it on canvas