



# Large, Synchronous Classes Online

Natalie Westwood, PhD Candidate, Zoology; CIRTl Program Developer  
Lindsay Fraughton, MA Student, CNERs, Grad Facilitator and TA Program  
Coordinator, CTLT



# Getting start on zoom

Make sure you can find:

- The annotation tool
- Mute
- Reactions
- Chat



## Land Acknowledgement

We would like to take some time to acknowledge the traditional territories we are on both in Canada and globally. Please use the annotate feature and choose a stamp to show where you are.

If you are not familiar with the indigenous group whose land you are currently on, we suggest you take some time to learn about their practices & history

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# Meet Your Facilitators

## Lindsay Fraughton

- MA Student
- CNERS
- Backcountry Hiker
- Breakfast enthusiast



## Natalie Westwood

- PhD Student
- Zoology
- Watcher of too much Netflix
- Occasional hiker





# Learning Objectives

By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Strategize how to address challenges in chat-boxes during large, synchronous classes
- Brainstorm how to manage your relationship with your instructor



## Where we are coming from

To better understand your experiences as a group, we'd like to ask you a series of questions.

Using the reactions in the participants section, please select **yes or no**: Are you currently TAing a large class?



## Where we are coming from

To better understand your experiences as a group, we'd like to ask you a series of questions.

Using annotate feature on the white board, please tell us what your role is as a TA in a large class. Use the stamp button to let us know if part of your role is already on the white board by stamping near that text box.



## Where we are coming from

To better understand your experiences as a group, we'd like to ask you a series of questions.

Using annotate feature on the white board, please tell us when your instructor is ok with you interrupting their lecture. Use the stamp button to let us know if part of your role is already on the white board by stamping near that text box.



# Talking to your instructor

If your role in moderating the chat doesn't seem to be working, how might you handle this with your instructor based on your relationship with them?

Uncomfortable

Comfortable






## **Break Out Groups Time!!**

Focusing on challenges in moderating large classroom chats

# 1. No one is responding to the chat. Why might this be happening, and what could you do as a TA?



- Ask if any technical issues, offer help
- Offer a poll or a yes/no question with an easier question (i.e. can you hear me?) then go back to more open ended questions
- Leave more time for students to answer more content-related questions
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## 2. As a TA, what kind of rapport should you build with the students? How can you do this using the chat?

- Introduce yourself as the TA, how to reach you, office hours.
- Invite students to them to send a private message if they are worried about sharing to the larger group.
- Find ways to engage and connect on topics outside of course content
- Setting the tone of the course (the instructor)
- Starting the class with an engaging question in the chat box (when appropriate)
- Recognizing students may not be comfortable speaking or typing in the chat box in such a large group setting (connecting in a smaller group setting or in one-on-one settings)

### 3. What if the students get 'keyboard courageous' in the chat and post polarizing content in the chat? What can you do as a TA?

- We are taking "polarizing" to mean "disrespectful" and the TA's job is to moderate and set a proper tone
- Polarizing could be blunt statements or something quite inappropriate
- **Class guidelines and net etiquette (netiquette) rules needs to be established** at the beginning (by the instructor)
- Ignoring it means condoning the action
- If someone uses a hurtful term, **step in and mention the term** - and why it is not appropriate. Possibly also approach the person who may have been hurt by it (in an individual message) - reach out.
- If the etiquette rules are online - **post the rules link** to the rules
- send the student a **private chat message** reminding about the etiquette guidelines - ask them to reframe the statement (send them the link, ask them to reframe their statement).
- **Moderate** by stepping in to steer or reframe the conversation.
- Suggest **taking the chat to another mode** of discussion - ie: breakout room? Jamboard? Menti?
- If it's very aggressive (ie: breaking all etiquette guidelines) - **shut down the chat?** - most extreme solution



# Final Thoughts and Comments

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**Thank you for attending our  
workshop!**

**Please fill out the feedback form -  
it helps us improve our workshops!**