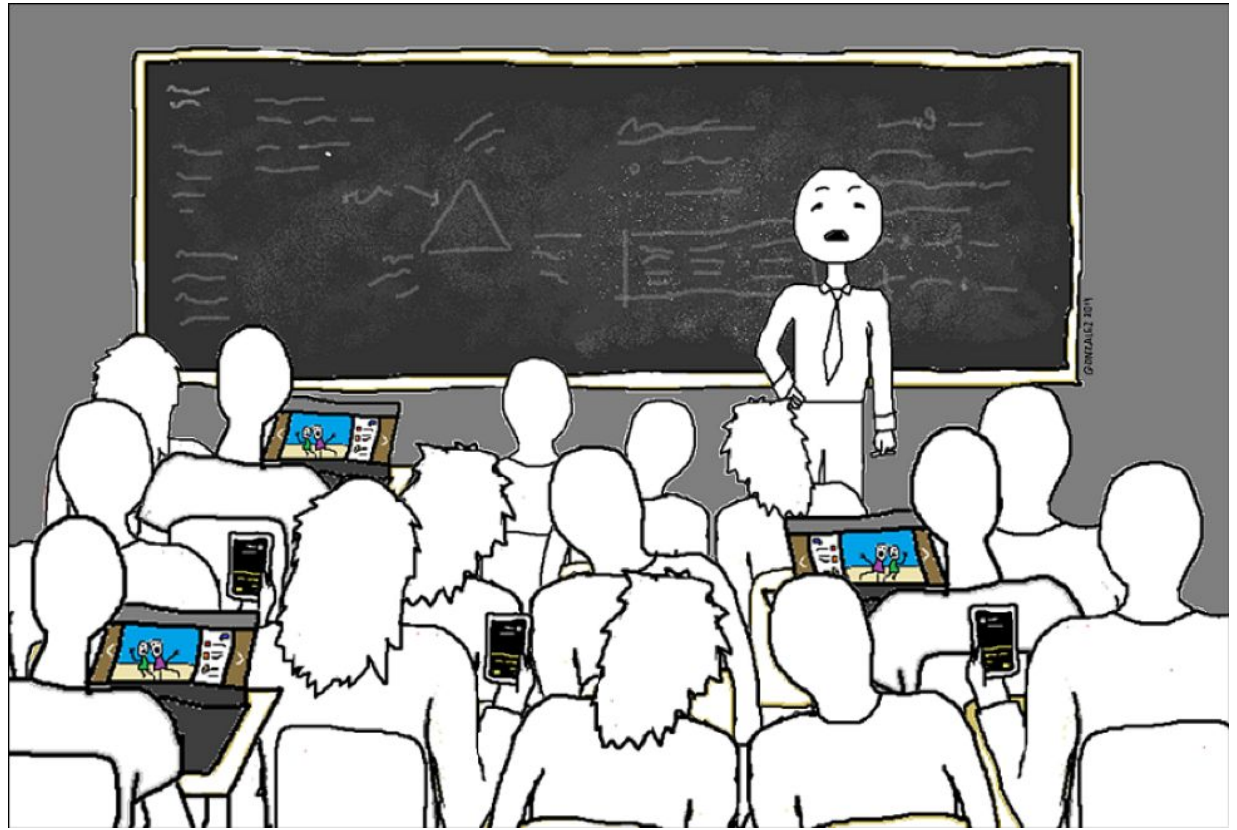# TAing Large Synchronous Classrooms Online

Roadmap for Today's Session

- Welcome & Logistics
- Icebreaker Activity
- Learning Objectives
- Breaking down Large Synchronous Online Classrooms
- Advantages & Challenges of Synchronous Online Classrooms
- Engaging Learners (and maybe yourself too)
- Supporting the Instructor(s) (they might need all the help they can get)
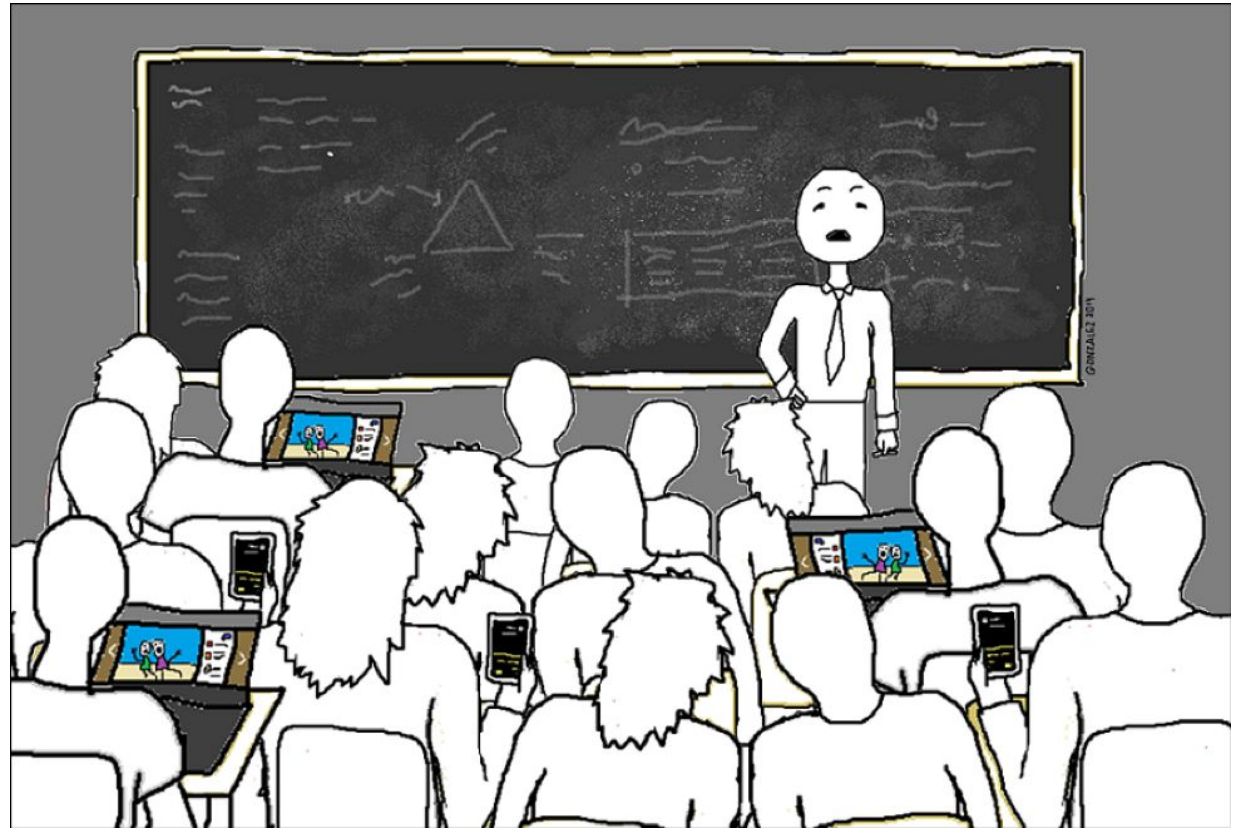- Summary, Next Steps, & Resources

Are online classes substantially different from face-to-face?

Complete the poll

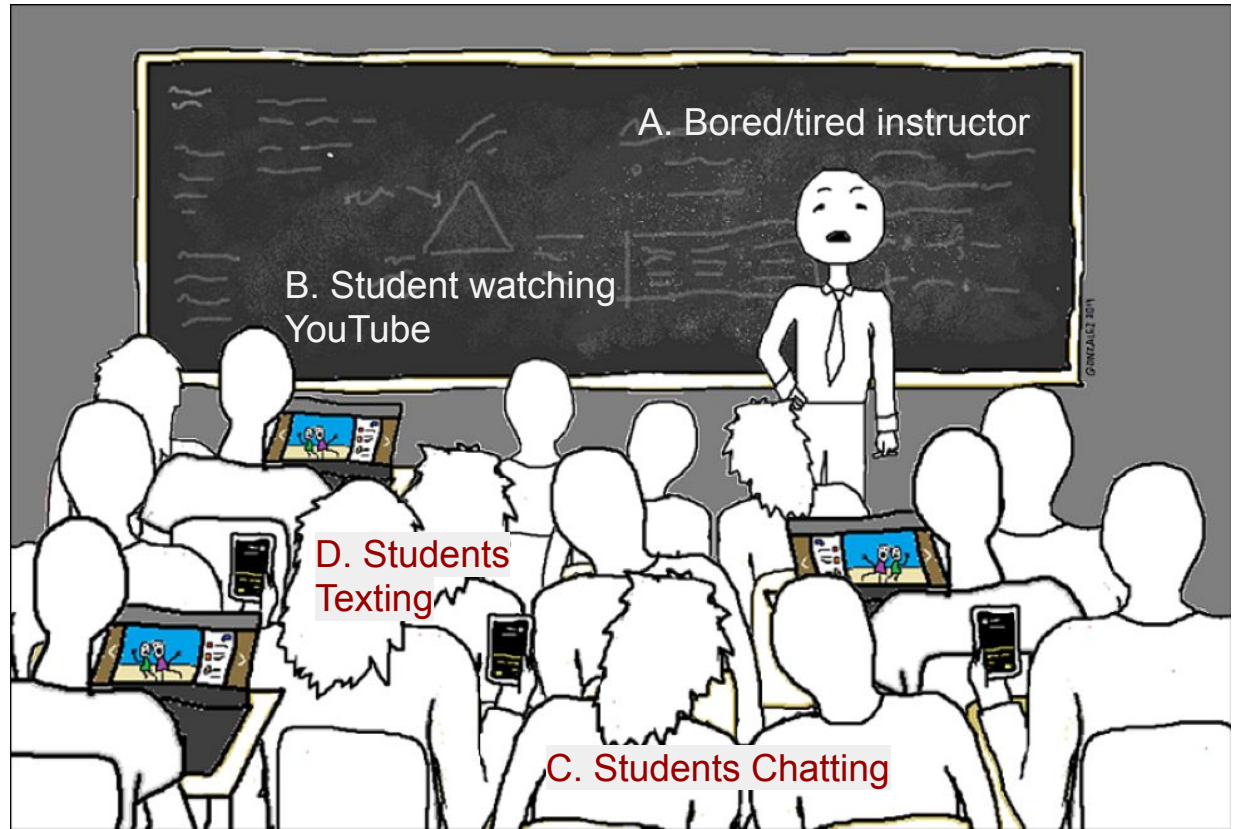What challenges do you see in this Face to Face classroom image?

Type responses in the chat box

What challenges does this Face to Face classroom image show?

How might these challenges shift (if at all) in an online synchronous class?

Complete the poll

By the end of this session you will be able to:

1. Explore the advantages and challenges unique to large synchronous online classrooms
2. Outline action paths for TAs to engage students in large synchronous online classrooms
3. Identify 2-3 strategies and be familiar with online and on-campus resources available to support instructors in large synchronous online classrooms.

Breaking down L-SOCs

Do we all really need to be here at the same time to do this?

- Large Classrooms- Students & Facilities
- Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning
- Online learning

TAing LSOCs

- Learning from face-to-face models of teaching and learning
- Re-inventing collaboration and interactivity

Advantages of L-SOCs: Activity Flow

1. Individual Reflection and Response (4 mins)

2. Review and Response (4 mins)

   Link to Padlet: https://padlet.com/diwansai/lsocadvantages

Challenges of L-SOCs:

Explore the advantages and challenges unique to large synchronous online (L-SOC) classrooms

1. Identify challenges that you have experienced or might have experienced in a L-SOC.
2. In groups, explore ways of addressing and preventing a challenge.

Link to Google Doc

Challenges of L-SOCs identified from interwebs:

- Technical & logistical challenges:
  - Interruptions due to software or equipment failure
  - Unfamiliarity with the platform or technologies
  - Trying to make Face-to-Face equivalent to Online learning

- Pedagogical challenges:
  - Learner engagement
  - Too much technology
  - Assuming that your learners are homogeneous
  - 'Activating' learners in an online setting
  - Check-ins for online behaviour
  - Teaching and cognitive load

Managing Student Engagement

- Planning
  - Asynchronous engagement
  - Logistics & Tools

- Communicating
  - Non-verbal communication
  - Clear instructions for activities
  - Peer Communication
  - Pause

- Delegating
  - Instructor/TA
  - Students

- Motivating
  - Student buy-in
    - Comprehension
    - Active Learning
    - Assessment
  - Acknowledge Participation
  - Online safe and accessible learning spaces

Strategies for student engagement

Individual reflection

Identify a challenge regarding student engagement that you might encounter in a L-SOC. (1 min)

How will you address this challenge? Note down 1-2 action steps from each management category that you can take. (3 mins)

Breakout rooms: Discuss with your peer(s) (5 mins)

Sometimes we might feel like this….

Strategies for Supporting the Instructor (and other TAs)

- Reasons why instructors (and TAs) might struggle with using online synchronous tools:
  - Perceived lack of flexibility
  - **Lack of skills and knowledge**
  - Perception that synchronous classrooms are unnecessary

Go to menti.com; insert code: 33 51 07

Strategies for Supporting the Instructor (and other TAs)

- Supports that instructors (and TAs) might need:
    - Technical (e.g. software, connecting with tech support, assisting students/TAs)
    - Logistical (e.g. creating a poll or breakout room, moderating chat, observing learners)
    - Pedagogical (e.g. running learning activities, lecturing)
    - Developmental (e.g. running practice sessions, identifying and advocating for training)
    - Emotional or affective (e.g. familiarizing yourself with mental health & well-being services)

Fishbowl Discussion - Let's Get Meta…

1) Creating this session
2) Running this session
3) Troubleshooting along the way
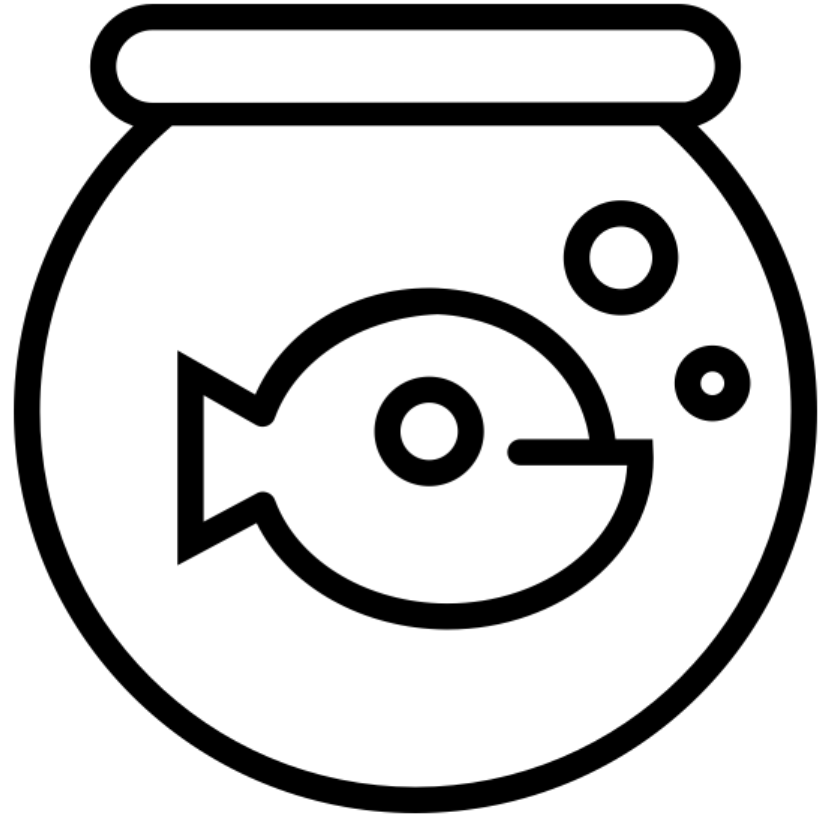
Created by Oksana Latysheva
from Noun Project

Resources & Activities

- Collaborate Ultra poll
- Padlet (x FIPPA)
- Google Docs (x FIPPA)
- Screen Annotations
- Breakout Discussion groups

- Non-verbal check-ins
- Individual Reflection and recording
- Problem solving
- Think-pair-share
- Virtual Gallery Walks

Other tools: https://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/all/

References

Best Practices for an Online Classroom | Stanford Online High School

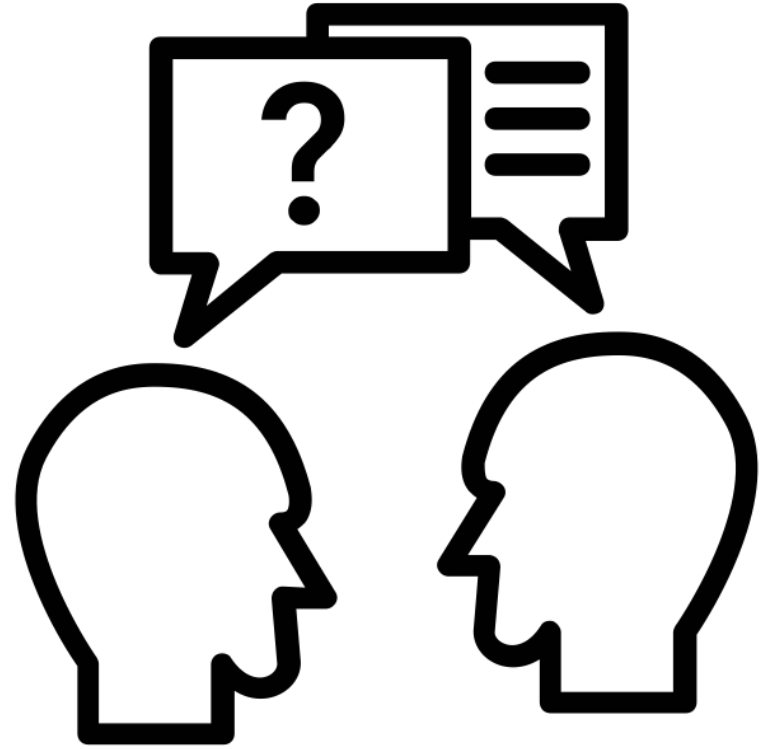(PDF) Challenges in Synchronous Virtual Classrooms Adoption by Faculty

The 'Dos and Don'ts' of Synchronous Online Learning

Online Synchronous Instruction: Challenges and Solutions

Promoting Learner Collaboration Online

Thanks!!

Questions?!?

Created by Vectors Market
from Noun Project

Please fill out our session feedback form:
https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_510enbnhVXK18r3