



Signs You are in the Right Class

On the First Day of Class

- The instructor demonstrates that he/she cares about the student's learning.
- The instructor learns the names of the students.
- The instructor makes an effort to learn about students' prior knowledge about the course topics and learning outcomes.
- The instructor encourages students to contribute to the class and structures class to support such contributions.
- The instructor treats students respectfully and insists that they do the same for each other, even when conversations get heated.

When You Look at the Syllabus...

- Learning outcomes for the course are clear.
- The assignments are clearly linked to the learning outcomes.
- The course material is clearly organized into groups of 3-7 chunks and those chunks make sense to the students.
- Students are given a choice about some of the assignments that allows them to work on topics of personal interest.
- Criteria for how to do well on assignments are clearly delineated.
- The course's grading scheme reinforces individual student accountability for doing the reading, thinking about it, and participating in class.
- The grading structure makes it clear that student mastery of the learning outcomes will be checked frequently through a variety of assessments, not just through two or three tests.

As the Class Progresses...

- Assignments build in complexity and in student responsibility for their success.
- More than one example is used to illustrate points when lecturing.
- A variety of pedagogical techniques are used, which help keep all the students interested and engaged with the course.
- Formative assessment such as ungraded classroom assessment techniques are used to appraise student understanding
- The instructor summarizes student comments and gives timely, accurate and fulsome feedback.
- Students are required to apply knowledge or analyze the readings, not just memorize what the instructor says.
- Students have to question their assumptions about what is being taught and/or their own understanding of it.