Motivating Students in a Large Lecture Survey Setting

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CETL Capstone Project
Urban Studies 110: The City (Category 6)

Course goal: To enhance student’s ability to “read” their cities, and connect their world with the historic forces that shaped it.
Logistics

80 to 90 students

Morris Hall 103

Seats face forward, little flexibility

Auditorium setup
URBS 110 Concerns

- Falling in to “old-style” habits, lecture-test
- Students wanted more opportunities for points
- Declining attendance as the end of the semester approached
**In-Class Activities**

CETL discussion: *Good Course Design/Student Retention of Material*

**Temple Art**

*Purpose:* Students will understand the practical purpose behind ancient architectural art

**History Hunt**

*Purpose:* To correctly identify modern interpretations of historic architectural and planning concepts, using the MSU campus as a case study.

**D2L Assignment**

*Purpose:*

A) Students apply the classroom concepts to their personal lives, and

B) To familiarize students with the D2L system.
Student Feedback/ Response

- **Temple Art:** Surprisingly serious
- **D2L Assignment:** “I really looked at it in a new way!”
- **History Hunt:** Has not had a formal assessment, but will be evaluated after the Spring 2006 cycle via comment sheet. Informal reaction has been positive, the projects showed creativity and artistic merit.
Next Steps

Incrementally add more small projects, group work, and assignments.

- Minute papers
- Muddiest point
- Design surveys/ feedback
- Photographic journals (this could be a semester long project)
- Partner share, interpretation of buildings
CETL Discussion: *Are You the Only Active Learner in the Classroom?*

**Test Question**

- Purpose: A) To incorporate an active learning method to get students more actively engaged in their education, and B) Increase classroom attendance toward the end of the semester.
Student Feedback/Response

- When asked, overwhelming positive reaction to the Test Question points.
- “I feel like I actually have a say in the tests.”
- Increased attendance (observed, not statistical)
Next Steps

- The ‘Test Question’ will be integrated into regular participation points for Fall of 2006 and beyond.
- The Test Question submissions will continue to be randomized.
Didn’t think it was possible...

BUT IT IS!