Overview

- Your experience
- Classroom etiquette
- Academic culture and Study tips
- Q & A
With someone from another country, discuss this question:

WHAT IS A TYPICAL UNIVERSITY CLASS LIKE IN YOUR COUNTRY?
University Classes in the United States

• Lectures (25-600 students)
• Discussion sections (20-35 students)
• Labs (20-35 students)
Basic Etiquette in US Classrooms

• Punctuality: Arrive a few minutes early
• Attendance: Polices vary among classes
• Participation: Ask questions and contribute to class discussions
• Level of formality: US classrooms are less formal (but behaving in a disrespectful way is not acceptable)
• English use: Try to use English as much as possible
Q1: When you are late for class, you should...

A. Knock on the door.
B. Enter, walk up to the instructor, and explain why I am late.
C. Enter and take a seat quietly.
D. Skip the class.

Answer: C
Q2: When you don’t understand what the instructor is saying….

A. Nod your head “yes” and continue listening.
B. Raise your hand and ask for clarification.
C. Turn to the person next to you and ask for clarification.
D. Make a note about it and ask the instructor after class or during office hours.

Answer: B or D. In large lectures, it may be more appropriate to wait until the end of class to talk to the professor, send an email after, or go to Office Hours. In large lectures, it might also be possible to quietly whisper a short question to a neighbor, provided you don’t disturb others around you or miss important points. In smaller classes, it may be easier to raise your hand and ask a question, but it could be considered rude to talk to your neighbor in a small class section. In short, it may depend on the class size and what is going on in the class at that moment.
Q3: If you need to use the restroom you should...

A. Raise your hand and ask to use the restroom.
B. Leave and return quietly.
C. Don’t leave; just wait.

Answer: B In US culture, you generally do not need to ask permission, and it’s not necessary to share any details (e.g. ‘I have diarrhea’; ‘I have stomach trouble’). If your instructor asks you were you went, you can simply say, “to the restroom.”
Q4: When emailing your professor, begin like this...

A. Hey there! I have a Q for you. ....
B. Dear Professor (family name), ....
C. Hi (first name), ....

Answer: B. Begin the semester by using more formal language. If your professor says it’s OK to use their first name, you may change to that.

In addition, it’s NOT acceptable to use “text message” type of language (e.g. r u in yer office thurs? can I talk 2 u?) – **Use full sentences and appropriate grammar and vocabulary.**
Q5: True or False? Food and Drink

1. It’s OK to eat in class.
2. It’s OK to drink in class.
3. It’s OK to chew gum in class.

Answer: It depends on your instructor. In many classes, drinks may be OK, but in labs, drinks and food could damage the equipment. In large lectures, be mindful of noisy or smelly foods that might disturb your neighbors. In small classes, check with the instructor about food. Many students are very busy, and sometimes you might need to eat in class because of your schedule. In short, check with your instructor. Chewing gum is OK, but try not to chew too noisly or pop bubbles that could disturb your neighbors.
Q6: True or False? Technology

1. It’s OK to text in class.
2. It’s OK to check and update social media in class.
3. It’s OK to talk on the phone in class.
4. It’s OK to use the dictionary app on my phone in class.
5. It’s OK to use the calculator (or other math or science apps) in class.

Answers: Using devices for anything other than class can prevent you from fully engaging in the class and may disturb those around you. Please keep your devices in Airplane mode and in your bags. If you must take a phone call, leave the room, but try to take care of phone calls, texting, and other non-class uses outside of class. Check with your instructor if it’s possible to use the calculator or another educational app in class.
Academic Culture and Study Tips

• Read the course description and syllabus carefully; make sure you understand your instructor’s expectations.
• Keep up with daily homework. Many instructors do not accept late homework, essays, or projects.
• If you do not do well on a paper or exam, you cannot do a “make-up” paper or exam. Talk with your instructor to make sure you understand where you made mistakes and why.
Study Tip: Treat your day like an 8 hour work day

Your combined work for one day
= # class hours + # study hours → 8 hours

Example:
If you have 3 hours of class on Monday, then you should study 5 hours.

BUT! You will likely have to do homework on Sat and Sun 😊!
Study Tip: Form a study group

- Group of 3-6 students
- Meet regularly
- Compare lecture notes
- Discuss homework
- Prepare for exams
Study Tip: Take notes (by hand!) if possible.

• During lectures, take notes by hand, if possible. Research shows taking notes by hand helps retention of information.
• If you prefer to type, make use of PPTs or other notes provided by professors. Read them in advance (if available) and take notes during lectures.
Study Tip: Read smart!

• Highlight main ideas, make annotations in the margins, and take notes on as you read.
• If possible, print articles or other materials and read them on paper.
• When reading articles / documents on a device, put your device in **airplane mode** to avoid getting distracted from the Internet.
Study Tip: Go to Office Hours

• Visit your professors and TAs (teaching assistants) during their office hours.
• If you have a schedule conflict, make an appointment.
• If you are shy, go with a friend.

Geosciences Prof. Basil Tikoff
Study Tip: Keep up with homework and organize your materials

• Use a calendar system (Google or iCal or Outlook) to make a schedule of assignments, quizzes, and tests.
• Use alerts on your phone to set reminders for due dates.
• Make folders in your PC to organize materials.
• Use 3-ring binders to organize papers.
Study Tip: Prepare for Exams

• Stay on top of daily homework.
• Study with your study group.
• Don’t “cram” in an “all-nighter.”
• Get a good night’s sleep the night before.
• Eat a healthy breakfast.
Study Tip: Utilize Campus Resources

- **Writing Center**: Helen C. White 6th floor & satellite centers around campus
  - Writing workshops
  - One-on-one support
- **GUTS**: 333 East Campus Mall
  - Tutoring
  - Conversation partners
- **Libraries** (in person or online chat)
- **Computer support**:
  - Labs throughout campus
- **DOIT** (tech store and support)

![College Library lab, 2nd floor](image)
Navigating US Classroom Culture: Workshops for International Students

Wednesday, September 6th
• 4:30-5:30PM

• Multicultural Student Center Classroom, Red Gym, 2nd floor

Join this interactive workshop to learn more about strategies for success in US classroom settings!

Topics will include:
- classroom participation
- faculty expectations
- peer interaction.

Registration required: https://iss-uscc17.eventbrite.com
Q & A