

## **NITOP Participant Idea Exchange: Class Attendance**

**Sunday, January 5, 2020, 10:15 – 11:15 am**

**Presenter: Kamil Hamaoui, Assistant Professor, Westchester Community College**

This participant idea exchange will delve into the issue of student attendance in face-to-face courses. With the continued expansion of online learning and the increasingly regular practice of supplementing in-person courses with resources and learning activities posted on course websites, we need to critically consider the importance of student attendance in the classroom.

On the first day of class, we face a full class of students, nervous and eager to learn what the class is all about. With time, the number of students attending class tends to dwindle. Is this something that concerns you? How important is class attendance to you personally? Does it upset you when you see all those empty seats? Why or why not?

How important do you think class attendance is to student learning? What materials do you post for students on course websites to enhance their learning? Is what you do in the classroom essential to student learning, or something supplementary for students in need of extra help and instruction? If it's essential, how do you know this?

What strategies, if any, do you use to encourage students to attend class? How much do you make class attendance and participation worth towards the course grade? Is it ethical to "force" students to attend class, through loss of points for not attending or loss of valuable information about what will be on the test? Do you rely upon extrinsic motivators primarily, or do you seek to boost students intrinsic motivation to attend class?

- ✦ How important is class attendance to you as an instructor? Why is it important to you, or not important?
- ✦ How important is class attendance to student learning? What do they learn that they cannot learn elsewhere, and how do you know?
- ✦ What do you do to encourage student attendance? Is it fair to penalize students for not attending?