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Syllabi Review

This activity can take place either the first or second day of class. It is also a good exercise to get students to move around and interact with each other.

Time Requirement: ~50 Minutes

Materials Needed:

- Syllabi
- Markers
- Flip Chart sheets or giant Post-it Notes or equivalent

Lesson Plan

The instructor briefly discusses what general information is available in syllabi and provides students with instructions about the activity.

Homework

For the first part of this activity, as homework ask students to fill in answers to the following inquiries for each of their classes (or come up with your own).

Professor: _____ Course: _____

1. Purpose of the course (include area of GE if any):
2. Dates of major assignments and tests:
3. Types of graded coursework (quizzes, essays, tests, etc.):
4. Course Policies:
5. Best way to contact professor:
6. Overall impression of the course:
7. Something you might struggle with:

There are a number of ways to facilitate a conversation about syllabi once students have completed this homework. For example, after putting students in groups of three, you could write each question on separate large Post-It Notes, place them around the room, and give each group a few minutes to respond to the questions (have a timer and have groups rotate until each group has an opportunity to answer each question). Once they are finished, students can read them aloud to the class discuss what they learned from the activity.