

# Anarchy in the Classroom can be a Good Thing

A Brown-Bag Series

TEAM-L

Presentation

# Definition of Anarchy

- Anarchy: a state of lawlessness and disorder, usually resulting from a failure of government.
- Anarchy in the classroom: students are in charge, and teachers no longer have control?
- Bad thing or Good thing?
- Traditional view: teacher in charge and order in the classroom.

# Active Learning

- Students are put in charge of course delivery.
- Teacher is a guide and facilitator.
- Can create more student responsibility.
- Can create more student ownership.
- Can create more student urgency.
- Can create more student involvement.

# My New Approach

- 1. Students learn material by reading book and presenting problems on the board. (I do spend a small amount of time doing some examples.)
- 2. We fly through the course at warp speed. (Can you guess why?)
- 3. Only 2 midterms and a final contribute to grade, but these can be repeated.

# New Strategies and Elements

- Active Learning
- Mastery Learning
- Spiral Learning
- Final Exam Integrity
- Group work by students
- Students correcting students
- Students required to present
- My role changes

# Positive Results

- Students are more earnest
- There is a “buzz” in the classroom
- Greater interaction
- Good students really take off independently
- The book is read with more regularity
- Higher scores

# Success Rates

- Fall 2007: 46% (Traditional Lecture)
- Spring 2009: 56% (Accelerated Pace)
- Summer 2009: 77% (Active Learning +)
- Fall 2009: ?

# Final Exam Success Rate

- Fall 2007: 22% (Traditional Lecture)
- Spring 2009: 34% (Accelerated Pace)
- Summer 2009: 77% (Active Learning +)
- Fall 2009: ?

# Concerns

- Some students become lackadaisical
- Are multiple final exams a valid testing tool?
- Unfair to shy students?
- Are they missing some concepts?
- What if a student needs much more explicit direction and is anxious?
- How will this translate to a more concept-oriented class like statistics?

# Conclusion

- I only have one conclusion:

**If you maximize student involvement in class  
and minimize your involvement in class,  
more learning takes place.**

Questions or Comments?