Author: Sarah Birdsong
Contact: sjbirdso@uncc.edu

The mechanics of creating teams..

- major
- class standing
- GPA - in dept courses
- URM - for your course
- attention to details?
- ability to work with others?

Questions to ask yourself:

- heterogeneous vs homogeneous?
- need extra support for any demographics?

Starting off the semester well:

- (semi-)permanent teams
- team activity on day 1
- use "Teams" not "Groups"


## What students think ...



Student Comments:

- All math classes should be like this (Fall 22
- I passed this course because of my team (Spr' 20 )

How's your team working out (Spr' 23)?


## Teams + Tech = Flexibility + Community

## In-class work: on Ziteboard

a shared online whiteboard
Why use in F2F classes?

- live feedback
- target struggling teams
- bad room? can't reach team?
- handle large classes


Out-of-class project: on YouTube

- max time
- billed as: study aid for tests
- presentations "w/o anxiety"
- debrief


Goals for using Teams...

- Working with others
- Job skills
- Communication skills
- Built-in support system
- Feedback before high stakes assignments


## More mechanics:

To build community \& trust, you need teams to act as a support; NOT a way to pull down your grades. KEY is to balance how the assignments affect grades AND to push students to work together.

Results: are we seeing any changes in the classroom?

| Class | Sem | Size | D | F | $\mathbf{W}$ | AVG | Final |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | 1165 | Sp 19 | 61 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 80 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | | Fa 19 | 60 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 88 | 85 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | 2164 | Fa 17 | 48 | 4 | 10 | 3 | 73 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | Fa 22 | 98 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 84 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | $\begin{array}{llllllll}1102 & \mathrm{Sp} 23 & 70 & 1 & 2 & 1 & 84 & \mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}\end{array}$



Tips for team assignments:

1. Low stakes
2. Have a variety of types
3. Be practice for future work
4. Grade students: as individuals / as a team
5. Mostly in-class work
6. It's about trust!
7. Convert lecture examples to in-class work
8. Out-of-class assignments need to be worth it
