

# Orienting Students Both Near and Far to Campus Life

April Darnell  
Advising Coordinator



# Orientation Classes

- One of the responsibilities of the Student Services Team
- Taught by experienced ELP instructor/ advisors
- 2 semester-long classes: one for students at lower proficiency levels, one for higher
- Cover a variety of topics, such as academic honesty and integrity, choosing the right major, understanding GPA, accessing library services, accessing health care, coping with stress...

# Why do we do it this way?

- Howard & Jones (2000) found that first-year university students who participated in a semester-long seminar/orientation class had enhanced perception of being prepared for the university experience and knowledge of campus resources, which are similar goals for the orientation classes. (*College Student Journal*, 34, 509-515.)



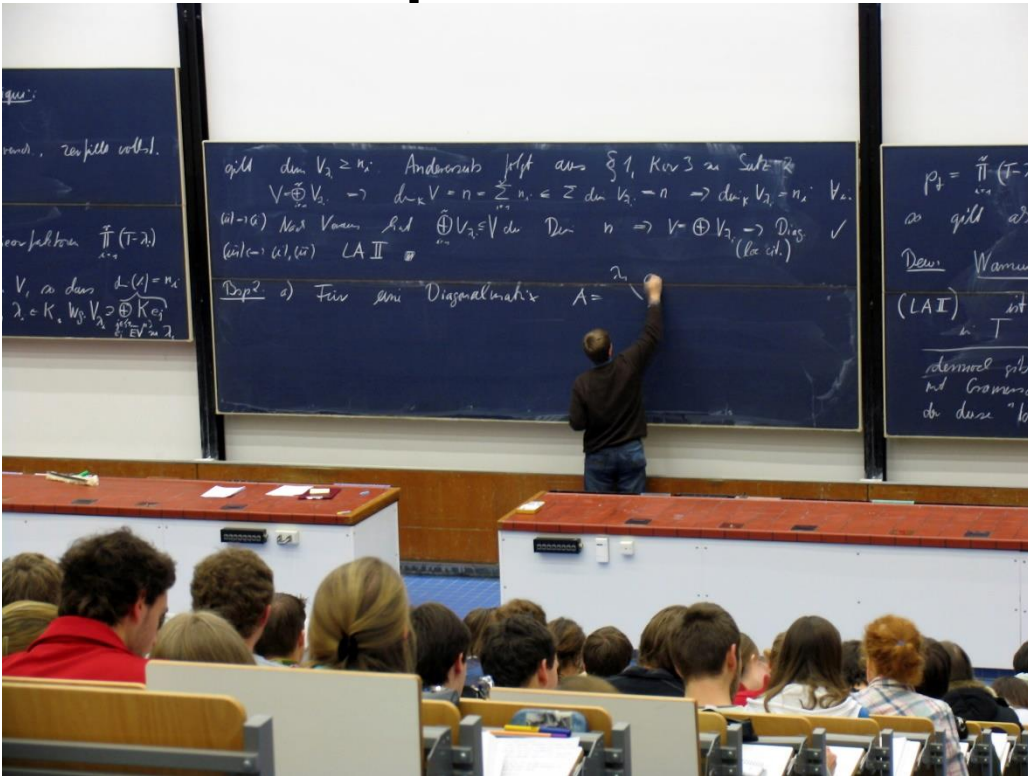
**vs.**





# DAS 158 Orientation class

- Prior to Spring 2020, was F2F with some content posted online in Canvas LMS



# NOW!!! NEW and IMPROVED!!!

- **100% online DAS 158 Orientation class (for intermediate to advanced)**
- **Students participating from 6 different countries plus 2 different locations in Kansas**
- **Content is asynchronous on the Canvas LMS with weekly synchronous meetings**

# Approaching student engagement on 3 levels:

- The course designer level
- The whole class level
- The individual student level





# The Course Designer Level

- Focus on how I select and create content
  - Consider the needs of both near and far students
  - Adopt a more personal, informal approach
  - Include more personal photos and video content: video assignment instructions, shorter video lessons, video interviews instead of lectures



# The Whole Class Level

- Focus on ways to create a community of learners
  - Include both synchronous (live on Zoom) and asynchronous activities
  - Discussion boards with video submissions, live (synchronous) discussions, requiring students to enable video during



## *Example of a synchronous activity: Wellness check...*

- During the live Zoom class meeting, call on each student to answer:
- *“Tell us about something that is making you feel \_\_\_\_\_ today.”*
  - 1. Happy
  - 2. Surprised
  - 3. Worried

# The Individual Student Level

- Focus on what each student needs
  - Require one-on-one appointments with students, on Zoom, telephone
  - Review the student's records and look for trouble spots
  - Maintain contact with student's other ELP instructors and academic program advisors