Strategies for Teaching Combined LAC Discussion Sections
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• What is a combined LAC section?
  o A LAC section that is linked to multiple courses, usually in several different departments

• What are some of the challenges of teaching a combined LAC section?
  o Different students with varied interests
  o Students are coming from classes taught by different faculty with different interests and focuses
  o Coordinating with different faculty, esp. at the syllabus planning stage
  o How to grade discussions
  o Course objective may conflict with student expectations (e.g. students may want grammar instruction)
  o Negotiating language barriers and language level
  o Small class size

• What are some of the advantages to teaching a combined LAC section?
  o More freedom in designing syllabi
  o Input from a variety of different faculty; availability of a variety of resources
  o Wide variety of students can enrich class discussions
  o Freedom to use an interdisciplinary approach
  o Highly motivated students
  o Small class size can lead to very intense discussions

• Some strategies for dealing with difficulties and exploiting advantages
  o Use a variety of different materials and media
  o Organize the syllabus along broad, conceptual axes
  o Use technology to broaden the scope of discussions
  o Get regular student feedback on course materials
  o Guest speakers?
  o Open discussions
  o Gauge students’ background at the beginning of the semester (e.g. Sherine’s map project)