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Large Class Contingency Management of  
Studying, Showing Up, Shutting Out, and Staying

Large college classes engender problems for both student and instructor. Students collectively resemble herds of domestic animals loosely retained inside four walls. Instructors shudder at the perceived complexity of consequenceing behaviors and recording outcomes when budget and time are important factors.

The system herein described has been recycled five times. The size of the class has averaged 190 students. Study behavior is consequenceated for each class period by assigning study objectives for each week and giving a 10 minute test via overhead projection at the beginning of each class. Showing up is consequenceated by using daily score mean for course grade with no make-ups allowed and dividing total points by tests given rather than tests taken. Shutting out help during tests is encouraged by using three different forms and is consequenceated by beeping a bike horn every time a whisper is heard, which results in a loss of a point each time for everyone in class. Staying for the entire period is consequenceated by assigning seats, passing out and collecting a class card for each person, and giving those who remain credit for any class points earned that period. Individuals choosing to leave turn in their cards at the door and lose the opportunity to pick up the extra points given that day.

Scan sheets are used for computer scoring of the daily tests. Both scan sheets and class cards are distributed and collected systematically to facilitate easy redistribution. A master class card is kept so that no entry is necessary on the cards of people who stay. The cards of individuals who leave are marked and reinserted. Student response to the program has appeared to be enthusiastic.