Five (5) Possible Goals for the First Class Meeting

Please note that any one faculty member would probably not address all five of these goals during the first class meeting. Additionally, some overlap may occur between goals (e.g., the essential questions may also be motivating).

* Establish motivation for the course
  - Do a vivid demonstration
  - Do something attention-getting
  - Market the course benefits for students

* Frame the entire course
  - The five essential questions this course will answer are….
  - Graphic flow chart of the course
  - Outline of the course
  - Course syllabus
  - How this course fits in the major or program

* Assess students informally
  - Prior knowledge
  - Course concept understandings and misconceptions
  - Attitudes towards this subject

* Establish expectations (by modeling or explaining at the 1st meeting)
  - Start and finish class on time
  - Do some group work if that’s part of the course
  - Explain outside-of-class student preparations
  - Explain online quizzes
  - Teach something new (Learning is what we do in this course.)

* Create a comfortable classroom climate
  - Get acquainted
    - Learn names – both students and instructor
    - Do an icebreaker
    - Share emails

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