American Classroom Culture

International students are sometimes surprised by students’ behavior in class. American students are likely to dress casually, may bring drinks or snacks to class and may speak to the instructor in an informal manner.

Students are expected to contribute to, and are often evaluated on, their participation in class. It is not disrespectful to question or engage the professor; it is considered a sign of interest and original thought.

Some instructors run a more formal classroom than others. The best thing to do is observe and adapt to the degree that you are comfortable.

Additional tips on American classroom culture:

1. [http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/cultural/academic/classroom.html](http://www.yale.edu/oiss/life/cultural/academic/classroom.html)
2. EducationUSA You Tube video – [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cBXPDH5qqs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cBXPDH5qqs)
3. “U.S. Classroom Culture” brochure by NAFSA – hard copies available in the Center for International Education

Once you are a student at CLC, consider enrolling in *Introduction to American College Culture (ELI 125)* where topics include: organization of higher education systems in the U.S., the differences and navigation of U.S. grading systems, Western learning and teaching styles, sale acclimation to the academic and social college environment and much more.