3 Quick Ways to Engage Students from Day 1

1. Create a course scavenger hunt. Scavenger hunts are fun but they are still work. Create 5+- questions with things from your outline / course and include it in the area with your course outline. Multiple choice grades itself and gives immediate feedback. It’s okay to just give 2 or 3 answer options instead of 4 and also gives the students a chance to see the testing feature in Bb You already know the answers, these are quick to build and they will show up in your grade centre so you can see who did it! Some sample questions you can just copy/paste are below:

   - When is first assignment due?
   - How much is final exam worth?
   - What is the name of the first lecture recording?
   - What day is our first live online class?
   - What is your instructor’s email address? (include your @mymhc.ca as an incorrect answer, student mess that up all the time)
   - When are office hours?

2. “Introduce yourself” discussion posts. Have students introduce themselves. This is a great way to get them familiar with the discussion board early before anything is worth grades! There is the standard question of “what are you hoping to learn in this course?” but it’s okay to have fun. Search discussion prompts and your subject area on the web, you will find lots of fun options! Here is how to do it in under 2 minutes:
   http://youtu.be/ZY3NTqxfH1I?hd=1

3. Course intro video with Screencast-o-matic. This is the last step before going live in your course as the content need to be there to show during the video. This is equivalent of with what you would do in your first day of class. Here is mine from last semester to give you the idea: https://youtu.be/nXK8WDFVLFY The key thing is be yourself! The free recording time is only 15 minutes but that as long as you should need (and possibly longer than you can keep student’s attention in a single video). I post it in the course and email it in my welcome announcement.
NOTE: These quick videos can also be great to go over assignment expectations!