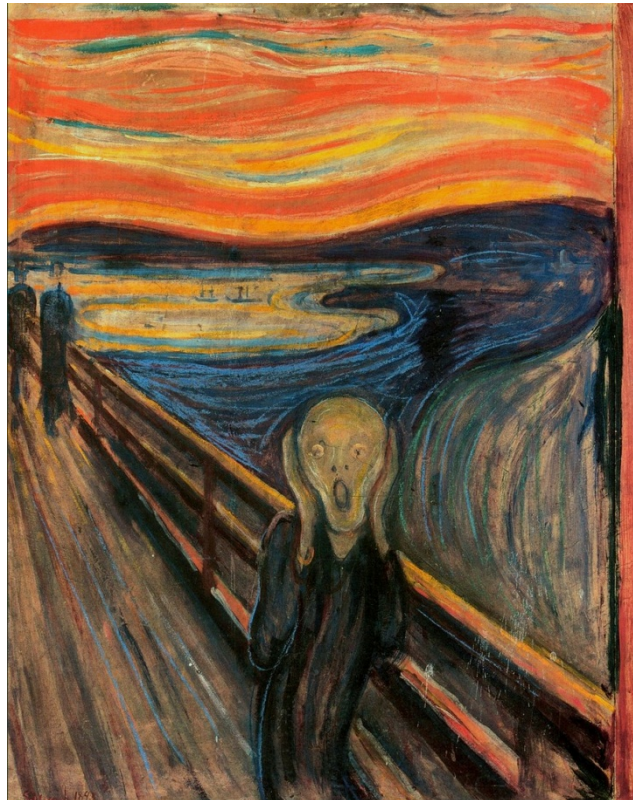# Course Classification Primer

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Course Classification and Workload in the CSU: It's a Scream

Quick Quiz

- What is a WTU and where does it come from?

EP&R 76-36 -- the sacred text and the basis for the course classification system

EP&R 76-36

- Venerable policy for establishing workload
- Establishes "standard" workload and a system for weighting courses taught in different modes
- Other motivations: generating budgeted positions; generating space
- Our course classification conventions are largely unchanged from this policy

Student Credit

- Student course credit over a semester is based on an assumption of 3 hours of effort per week per credit unit.

- Rules of thumb:
  - Traditional lecture and seminar classes generate one unit per one hour of classroom time per week; assumes two hours out of class
  - More "active learning" modes require more contact per unit of degree credit

Classifying Courses

- C1 through C6: One credit unit per contact hour
  - – Lecturers, seminars, discussions
- C7 through C14: One credit unit per two contact hours
  - – Various activities
- C15 and C16: One unit per 3 contact hours
  - – Science labs
- Different modes and level of instruction come with "normative class sizes"

Examples of Course Classifications

C Number	Description	Contact hrs/Unit	K Factor
C-1	Large lecture	1	1.0
C-4	Discussion	1	1.0
C-5	Seminar	1	1.0
C-13	Various activities, labs	2	1.3
C-16	Science labs	3	2.0
C-78	Non-traditional Instruction (state)	*	0

Classifying Courses: the details

- Assigning C values based on class approach and subject
- Guidelines around typical class sizes
  - Large lectures (C1) up to room limits
  - Lecture/discussion (C2) nominally 40
  - Discussion (C4) nominally 25
  - *Etc.*
- Class may combine two components (e.g. C1 + C16 for a lecture/lab combo)

C77 and C78

- Designations where faculty effort does not readily link to student effort.
- Nontraditional Instruction
- C78 is used for state-funded instruction
- No associated WTU; workload is assigned based on estimate of faculty effort needed and provided as assigned time

Weighted Teaching Units

- We need a way to convert contact hours and degree credit to faculty workload. *Student time is not the same as faculty time!*

- The "weighted teaching unit" is this conversion: about 45 hours of faculty effort (in and out of class) per semester unit

Combining C, S, k factors

- C = Mode of direct instruction
- S = Supervision classifications (WTUs based on # of students)
- k = a multiplier to get from credit units to WTU

- Each C designation has an associated "k factor"
- WTU = credit units X k factor

Now for the hard stuff

- Supervision (S courses):

- WTU credit assigned based on number of students supervised.

- S factor is associated (roughly) with estimated time spent by faculty member per week. Credit units based on time put in by the student.

- Range from 0.25 WTU/student (S1) to 1 WTU/student (S5)

S-Factor Codes

S Number	Common uses	Contact hrs/week	WTU/ enrollment
S-1/S-48	Independent study/studio instruction	45 minutes	0.25
S-2/S-36	Independent study/studio instruction	1 hour	0.33
S-3/S-25	Independent study, thesis, student teaching	90 minutes	0.5
S-4/S-24	Thesis, student teaching	2 hours	0.67
S-5/S-23	MSW fieldwork	3 hours	1.0

Thanks, you've been a great audience.
Questions ?