Socratic Seminar – Large Class Size (> 20-25)

Conducting a Socratic Seminar in a large class-size brings very special challenges. The idea behind a Socratic Seminar is for us to be communally engaged in a conversation about ideas. However, when there are 40 people in the room this is difficult, if not impossible.

I have found very few suggestions on how to best handle this. The one I have found is the one that we will try. We will make a rectangular arrangement of the tables capable of seating between 20 and 25 people as a main circle. The rest of the students will sit around the circle and be responsible for developing a class set of class notes each day that will be a Google doc that all of you can tap into. The Google Doc will be titled as follows: MMDDYYYY ECON 3500 Sp17 19775 Class Notes. The only change entitled is the date for each file.

Each student will be assigned a roster number and I will randomly assign people to the main circle. I will assign 20 – 24 people each day. If you are not assigned to the main circle please take a seat outside of it and be ready to start work on the Google doc for that day.