![CityU logo](香港城市大學 City University of Hong Kong)

The MERIT Study Kit for Large Classes: student-oriented, dynamic and interactive system

Project Number: 6000575

Principal Investigator: Prof. Meichun LIU

Grant Type: TDG

Abstract:

Large-class teaching in higher education poses challenges to traditional pedagogical methods which were

presumably designed based on classes with small number of students. Some of the issues or difficulties have

been identified in transition from small-size classes to large-size classes. For instance, students may become

less motivated as they feel more isolated and become anonymous in big classes; there may be less direct

interaction between the instructor and the students; class management may take more time, etc. These

challenges become more serious with students in their first year of university study. Although what counts as

a big class in tertiary level education differs from subject to subject as discussed in the literature, a class of

near 100 students for an introductory course in linguistics, such as LT220 I, is without doubt a big class.

This project proposes a student-oriented, dynamic, and interactive study kit named MERIT to guarantee

effective learning by meeting the essential challenges that come with large-size classes in building high

levels of Motivation, _Engagement, Relevance, Innovation and Transferring of knowledge. The five

components are the key to effective teaching of a large class that needs to get down to the basics of course

design. There have to be clearly-designed, practical, enjoyable, dynamically interactive mechanisms to

ensure quality learning and teaching. The project aims to design and produce a study kit to implement the

FIVE crucial elements, as abbreviated in the name of the project MERIT: Motivating, Engaging, Relevant,

Innovative, and Transferring. Through careful course design and classroom implementation, MERIT aims to

boost students' self-motivation in learning to learn in a big class, to discover their own potential in critical

and creative thinking, to enhance instructor-student interaction, and to make linguistics relevant to students'

own life. The project also aims to set up a webpage under the Department '·Discovery-Enriched Curriculum

at LT" to showcase students' achievement through teaching enhanced by MERIT.