Signal Phrases for Class

*By using these expressions as you teach, you will help your undergraduates follow what you are talking about. They really do make a difference!*

**To introduce a topic:**
Today we’re going to look at/examine…
Today I’m going to explain…
In today’s lab we’re going to… because…

**To emphasize important info:**
From this we learn…
Note that…
Notice that…
Remember,…
The main thing to understand is…

**To change a topic (while lecturing):**
Moving on, …
Next,…
Okay. Let’s move on to…

**To clarify:**
That is to say…
This means…
What this means is…
In other words,…

**To check for comprehension:**
Am I making myself clear?
Are you following what I’m saying?
Is everyone following?

**To seek clarification when not understanding a student’s question or comment:**
Let’s see if I understood your question. *(Then repeat it as you understood.)*
Can you repeat the (first, last) part of your question, please?

**To interrupt:**
Excuse me.
Sorry to interrupt, but…

**To get students’ attention after group work:**
Can I get your attention please?
All right, everyone.

**To redirect students if they get off-topic:**
Getting back to (topic X),…
It sounds like you might be off topic.
Are you still discussing (topic X)?
Do you have questions about (topic X)?

**To check their understanding of your answer to a question:**
Did I answer your question?
Is that what you were asking for?
Does that help?
Is that what you wanted to know?

**To conclude:**
To conclude,…
To summarize,…
So let me summarize what we have covered.

**Bonus! – How to change the topic in general conversation & maintain control**
That reminds me,…
By the way,…
Speaking of (X),…