Plan for a SoTL Project

by Karen Burns, Georgian College

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| **Research Question**  **~~How do I better engage students when I teach a blended course?~~**  **Would student engagement and grade level improve if they were given the option of either learning material synchronously or asynchronously?**  Prior to Covid, all my courses were taught using a blended format. This meant that about 4 or 5 times through the semester I would go to the campus for a face-to-face class. The other weeks the content was presented online, asynchronously. As I met with the students so infrequently, I did not get to know them and for the most part, did not connect with them. Additionally, I found that many of the students did not seem engaged in the asynchronized material. |
| **Identify challenge/outcome related to learning that is related to your question.**  **Challenges**   * Reverting back to teaching face-to-face every week may benefit some students, but this may prove difficult for other students who live in remote areas and have a long, and in winter often difficult commute * Since the onset of Covid, students have had more experience with online learning. Will this make a difference when we return to regular classroom situations? * Some students have difficulty learning through a self-taught process and either do not comprehend the reading material or do not attempt to read it   **Outcomes**   * Determine students’ needs and comfort level regarding online vs face-to-face learning * Evaluate students’ online skill level * Increase in student satisfaction and grade level |
| **Describe the instructional activity, assignment, or teaching strategy that will promote student learning on the outcome you identified.**   * ~~Course will continue to operate as a hybrid with some classes face-to-face and the rest online. The difference will be that the online portion will be available both synchronized and asynchronized.~~   A study of Indonesian university students concluded that since the onset of Covid  “students could adapt to the new learning methods of full DL and the majorities agreed blended learning that combined classroom and distance learning can be implemented henceforth. This current COVID-19 pandemic, changes not only the utilization of technology in education but the pedagogy strategies in the future”(Amir et al, 2020)  Course will be presented in a hybrid format as follows:   * Classes will be held face-to-face four times throughout the semester * The remaining weeks students will have the option to either complete their learning asynchronized or synchronized online using WebEX * Faculty will be available to meet with students after class or by appointment * Students are welcome to email faculty at any time with questions   Reference  Amir, L.R., Tanti, I., Maharani, D.A. *et al.* Student perspective of classroom and distance  learning during COVID-19 pandemic in the undergraduate dental study program Universitas Indonesia. *BMC Med Educ* **20,**392 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-020-02312-0 |
| **Describe the evidence that would persuade an external audience that the new or modified teaching strategy improves student learning on the targeted learning outcome.**   * ~~change in students’ grades~~ * ~~attendance at asynchronized classes~~ * ~~how students are feeling~~ * A comparison of current and previous year marks to determine if there is a change in grades * Weekly attendance numbers for the synchronized learning will be collected and recorded. A benchmark number will be decided upon to determine success of this added opportunity * Student survey will be undertaken at the beginning of the semester and at the end to determine how they are feeling   **Ethical Considerations:** Students will be asked to complete an anonymous survey prior to the implementation of this SoTL plan and another upon completion of the semester. Prior to the start of the SoTL an Ethics Review Board approval will be required and students will be asked to review and sign an informed consent form. |
| **How and where would you publish, present, or disseminate this work?**  ~~This work would be available to the Associate Dean, Course Coordinator and Course Lead for the SSW program~~  This work would be presented at a SSW staff meeting using a Power Point presentation format. It will be viewed by the Associate Dean, Course Coordinator, Course Lead, and SSW faculty.  Should the above individuals find this information valuable I would consider submitting it to an educational journal for publishing. |

Adapted from: C. J. Stanny, E. M. El-Sheikh, & H-M. Chung (2009) ***Getting Started with a SoTL Project***

Center for University Teaching, Learning, and Assessment