Hybrid, online, and flipped classes: ideas for teaching with technology

BEN LAABS AND TESSA HILL

EARLY CAREER WORKSHOP FOR GEO SCIENCE FACULTY

Session goals

• Identify the benefits and challenges of online teaching
• Consider some communication and management strategies for your class
• Share ideas for active learning in an online environment

Online classes

1. What is your experience with online teaching and/or learning?
2. In previous classes you have taken or taught, what learning strategies were effective? What strategies were not?
3. What are your concerns about teaching online?

Definitions

• Synchronous learning – “live” activities with instructor and all students
• Asynchronous learning – activities completed on student’s own time
• Flipped class – asynchronous lectures, active learning during class time
• Hybrid class – blend of online and face-to-face teaching and learning

Some benefits of online teaching and learning

• Flexibility and convenience
• Accessibility
• Opportunities created by formalized asynchronous learning
• Higher enrollment, retention and student satisfaction

#1. How would your students and you benefit from online teaching and learning?

Some challenges of online teaching and learning

• Preparation time
• Creative strategies for teaching, engagement, and assessment
• Structuring class and communicating expectations to students
• Managing communication
• Training students to use technology correctly

#2. What specific challenge(s) do you anticipate for your online, flipped, or hybrid class?
Effective online teaching must include:
- The same learning outcomes and expectations as an in-person class
- A course schedule
- Instructor accessibility
- Opportunities for student engagement
- Formative and summative assessment

Assess your pedagogical readiness. Are you willing to:
- Use a variety of teaching techniques to engage students
- Recognize the differences between in-person and online teaching
- Include active learning and formative assessment in an online environment
- Manage asynchronous and synchronous learning activities
- Create a fully accessible course

List 2-3 specific differences between your online and in-person teaching.

Communication plan (for online and hybrid classes)
- Protocols for sharing course content, providing feedback, online interactions
- Should be clearly described in the syllabus
- Reiterate the plan early and implement it consistently
- Include a plan for synchronous and asynchronous activities

Communication plan should answer the following questions
- How will students be allowed to contact you?
- When and how can students expect a response to their inquiries?
- What type of feedback will students receive?
- How will announcements/reminders be communicated?
- How will you facilitate student-student interactions?

Write down a basic communication strategy for your class.

Management plan
- Set of strategies for handling online communication with and among students
- Synchronous communication → etiquette is similar to a classroom
- Asynchronous communication → management issues can arise
Considerations and strategies

- Management plan – consider how you may handle the following
  - Inactivity
  - Dominant student(s) on discussion board or group project
  - Digressions on discussion board or group project
  - Common misconceptions displayed on assignments or quizzes
  - Inappropriate comments

#5. What communication management issues can you foresee for your class?

Considerations and strategies

- Strategy for dealing with common communications problems
  - Inactivity – give students credit for participation/asynchronous feedback
  - Dominant student(s) – encourage students early with “step up” or “step back”
  - Digressions – set clear expectations and provide feedback frequently
  - Common misconceptions – provide opportunities for self-assessment and correction
  - Inappropriate comments – set expectations for etiquette and respect, provide examples

Active learning and formative assessment

- Active learning
  - Design activities that allow students to interact with you and one another
  - Synchronous or asynchronous
  - Allow students to self-evaluate and correct their work

- Formative assessment
  - Quizzes and road checks
  - Discussions and group work

Technology examples

- Slack
  - Group communications, file sharing, announcements

- Blackboard Ultra
  - Live presentations, virtual office hours

- Camtasia
  - Recording lectures and demonstrations