Aligning teaching methods and students learning need Active learning vs. traditional classrooms

Armin Schikorra



dB-SERC lunch discussion, 08/06/2018

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- "personalizing undergraduate education"



Teaching Design

Armin Schikorra (Ass. Prof., Math, Pitt)

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Educational Scientist/Evaluation

Dana Miller-Cotto (Postdoc, LRDC/Teaching Center)

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Consultations

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Mo/We/Fr	Tuesday	Thursday	
75 students	3x 25 students	75 students	
Frontal lecture	Recitation (Quiz, Q&A)	(online homework)	
	1 TA/25 ppl.	1 TA/25 ppl.	

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active-learning layout

Mo/We	Fr	Tu	Th
75 stud.	75 stud.	(unchanged)	75 stds
mini-lect. (10 min)	summarizing lect.		videos
group work (40 min)			
1 TA	0 TA	1TA/25ppl.	1 TA/75 ppl
1 UTA	0 UTA		

Assessment

current assessment

Ca. 10 Quizzes	online hw	Midterm 1, 2	Final
10%	10%	25%	30%
instructor	departmental	instructor	departmental
			cumulative
			letter grade ± 1

Material

 All material available to both (active learning and traditional learning)

videos

- ► Lightboard-solution preferable
- use also of available online videos

Main Challenges

dangers/challenges

- working sheets to keep students engaged
- making groups work
- moving between groups (8 groups per instructor, moving rapidly, only 80 minutes of group work)

in progress:

- preparation of working sheets
- preparation of videos