Getting Started in Blended Learning

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Introduce yourself to your neighbour (someone you do not know) and Explain:

- Do you use blended learning already?
- What do you want to learn today?
- State one obstacle you see to using blended learning in your classes?
What is Blended Learning?
University of Calgary Position Paper on Blended Learning:

Blended Learning is an approach to course design that meaningfully brings together the best of both face-to-face & online learning. It is not intended to supplant either of these individual approaches, rather to build from each to create a new, more effective learning experience for students.

At its heart, great blended learning course design will seek to leverage that which is best done in-person (debates; group presentations; reflexive response/thought) in combination with that which is best done online (provision of content; deeper, reflective discourse; document management & organization).

Blended Learning:
1. Make the mix you want

2. Must be super–well–structured
   And expectations must be super clear to students
How to Mix?

- Combining teaching strategies
- Combining delivery media
- Combining online & face-to-face instruction
Activity: You already do blended learning

- What blended learning activities have you heard about or used?

**Synchronous**
- “Live”

**Asynchronous**
- “On-demand”
**Synchronous**
- Video/Audio conference
- Online chat, Skype, Facebook chat
- Clickers
- Teamwork assignments
- Instant feedback, practice quizzes
- Peer instruction
- Online shopping live help
- In class IT activities (web, videos, problem based learning, Smartphones in class)
- VIA
- Powerpoint lecture
- Face-to-face lecturing
- Webinars
- Guest lectures

**Asynchronous**
- Forums
- Virtual labs
- Online assignments (webwork, Lon-capa)
- LEA document delivery (powerpoint and word documents)
- Email/MIO
- Online content (Websites, vodcasts)
- Khan academy, Just math tutoring,
- LEA/Moodle Forums
- Facebook postings
- Plain homework
- Textbook supports
- Blogs
- Wikis
- Readings
The supplemental or enhancement model retains the basic structure of the traditional course and supplements lectures and textbooks with technology-based, out-of-class activities.

The replacement model reduces the number of in-class meetings and:

- replaces some in-class time with out-of-class, online, interactive learning activities
- makes significant changes in remaining in-class meetings.
Mostly online curriculum with some face-to-face time

50% of course time in class and 50% for online activities

Regular class time supplemented with online activities as homework

Fully Online

Blended Learning

Fully In Class
Activity: Why do blended learning

- What are the Advantages and Disadvantages for implementing blended learning?

Advantages

Disadvantages
Advantages

- Accessibility
- Student engagement
- Teacher coolness/trendy
- Variety
- Up-to-date
- Encourages shy students

Disadvantages

- Distraction → too much stuff
- Limited availability (access, resources)
- Learning curve for all
- Needs to be kept up-to-date
- Expenses
- Less face-to-face time
- Erosion of face-to-face communication
Blended Learning Advantages

1. Course access at one’s convenience and flexible completion
2. Reduction in lecture class time
3. Promotes independent learning
4. Multiple ways to accomplish course objectives
5. Increased opportunities for human interaction, communication, & contact among students
6. Introverts participate more
7. Better learning by Media Generation
Blended Learning Disadvantages

1. Procrastination, procrastination, procrastination
2. Students have trouble managing time
3. Students often lack independent learning skills
4. Problems with technology at the beginning
5. Can be overwhelming or too novel
6. Poor integration or planning
7. Resistance to change
8. Good ideas but lack of time, money, and support
Two types of changes...

Improving the logistics of learning:
To make processes
- more efficient,
- easier,
- more professional,
- better organized,
- just–in–time, archivable

Improving the pedagogies of learning:
To extend and enrich
- how you learn; via better social learning,
- new models of learning; new ways of creating, designing, and building learning
Pedagogical change

Teaching and learning change

- From being given to finding or creating
- From fixed to options
- From listening to doing
- From one-size-fits-all to tailoring
- From copying notes to presenting your own work for others
Blended Tools in use at Vanier

Asynchronous
- On-line assignments (Lon-Capa, Webwork)
- Wikis
- LEA, Moodle
- Sept-Iles Project

Synchronous
- Via
- Webinars
Inverted or Flipped Classrooms

What is Just-in-Time Teaching?
Pre-activities

Activities

Collaboration Follow up

Supported by Web tools
What is Lon-Capa?

- **LON–CAPA** is an e-learning platform, also known as a Course Management System (CMS) or Learning Management System (LMS). It possesses the standard features of many learning platforms (user roles, calendar, e-mail, chat rooms, blogs, resource construction, test grading, etc.)

  - [https://kepler.johnabbott.qc.ca](https://kepler.johnabbott.qc.ca)
  - [Problem Examples](https://kepler.johnabbott.qc.ca) in physics, chemistry and Biology
  - Contact Person at Vanier: [Andy Fuchs](mailto:andyfuchs@johnabbott.qc.ca)
What is WeBWorK?

- WeBWorK is an open-source online homework system for math and sciences courses. Based at University of Rochester
- An example: NYCLenton
- Contact Person at Vanier: Andy Fuchs
What are Wikis?

Student generated Wikis

- An example: Math Google Project
- Contact Person at Vanier: Andy Fuchs, Sandi Mak

Teacher generated Wikis

- An example: Physics Wiki Project
- Contact Person at Vanier: Andy Fuchs, Nuzhat Jilani
What is LEA

- **LEA** is the main Course Management System (CMS) at Vanier
- LEA is already used by all students in the college.
- Can offer some limited options for asynchronous blended learning
  - Uploaded documents
  - Suggested webpages
  - Forums
- Contact person at Vanier: Jen Mitchell
What is Moodle

- **Moodle** is another CMS available at the college.
- Teachers must request a Moodle course and students must register themselves in the course.
- Moodle can offer more options for asynchronous blended learning:
  - Wikis
  - Interactive lessons
  - Online quizzes
  - Upload documents, videos, sound clips, images, and webpages
  - Forums
- Contact person at Vanier: [Jen Mitchell](mailto:Jen.Mitchell@college.edu)