

Plenary Talk 1 IUPS 2022-Post Conference Teaching Workshop

Title of the Talk: Successful Strategies for Engaging Students Before, During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Engaging students in learning has always been a challenge for instructors in higher education. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic this task became more difficult. There are many activities to engage students that can be tailored to a specific audience or course modality. Prior to the beginning of the term assigning students an introduction video and participation in a discussion engages them right away while building a learning community. The video discussion provides the instructor with material to bring into the first class to provide a welcome environment for learning. During class, the use of Mentimeter polling provides live and rapid responses. These short polls can be used to capture students' attention or to evaluate their course content knowledge. Forming teams and requiring students to name their team and choose a team mascot increases student-student engagement. Team names create identity and can be used to assign teamwork so that students to work together on case studies and class debates. Social media provides a venue for students to interact outside of class-time. Twitter has been successful to engage students in discussions on health professions, with a librarian to perform database research, to hold class discussions on course content and for students to identify concepts they need to review with the instructor. Embedding etiquette skills in courses ensures students are cognizant they are creating their own brand as a future professional. Adding physiology songs to class provides a fun way to dive deeper into course content as a group. Using zoom, the addition of guest speakers from around the world engages students at a remarkably high level. The guest speakers can be experts in the field or add additional content to the course. By requiring students to post questions ahead of time ensures the question-and-answer discussion time will be robust while supplementing student learning. Incorporation of these activities have successfully engaged students, contributed to a fun learning environment and will continue to be implemented as courses return to post-pandemic modalities.