

## *Using Blackboard and a tablet PC to deliver large cohort teaching*

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### AIM OF ECON10061 Introductory Mathematics

- Introduce students with GCSE maths to main mathematical tools used in economics, finance etc.

### CONTENT

- Revise GCSE basic algebra & coordinate geometry
- Differential calculus
- Matrices

### CHALLENGES

- Students “hate” maths
- Size ( $\approx 225$  students)
- Lack of resources (two TAs : exercise classes of  $\approx 30$ )
- 25-33% failure rate (19% in January 2015)

### TEACHING & LEARNING

- 10 credits
- 18 one-hour lectures with...
- Prepared lecture notes (with gaps completed during lectures using Tablet/OneNote)
- 9 weekly assignments going over...
- 10 one-hour tutorials in classes of  $\approx 30$
- PASS (Peer Assisted Study Scheme) = 8-12 groups of  $\approx 15$  students + two 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> year “leaders”
- Blackboard quizzes
- 2 formative assessment tests
- 2 MbClick revision sessions

## FEEDBACK

- Returning weekly assignments + exercise classes
- TAs' office hours
- TAs mark 2 formative assessment tests
- Weekly samples of anonymised feedback on homework assignments via Blackboard
- Instantaneous feedback to mobile phones or laptops in MbClick revision sessions

## ASSESSMENT

- 10% for coursework
- 90% for 1.5 hour unseen exam in January

## INNOVATIONS

### *Use of Blackboard as a "hub" for delivering:*

- Lecture notes, including weekly exercises
- Staggered release of answers to weekly exercise and two formative assessment tests
- PASS (Peer Assisted Study Scheme) groups
- Online quizzes
- MbClick revision sessions
- Past exam papers and sketch answers
- Announcements / course blog

### *Gaps in lecture notes help:*

- Attendance: Gaps in lecture notes provide incentive to attend lectures
- Attention: Students can listen instead of constantly be writing
- Concentration: Regularly putting to paper helps maintain concentration

*Using Tablet + OneNote combines advantages of Powerpoint and “Chalk & Talk”:*

- Pre-prepared notes: get through material quickly
- Flexible: can move round in OneNote
- Spontaneity: add an example, make mistakes
- Pacing of lectures: lecturer writes rather than clicks
- Annotated lecture notes can be put on Blackboard

*Sample anonymised feedback helps students:*

- See other people’s work as well as their own (more than 90 pieces of work)
- See what lecturer is looking for in a good, clear, accurate answer (diametric opposite of MCQs)
- See the standard of work required for a First, 2.1, 2.2 etc. (important for first years)
- But do not receive feedback on their own work...

## BLACKB'D CATALYST EXEMPLARY COURSE AWARDS

*Detailed self-assessment of:*

- Course design
- Interaction and collaboration
- Assessment
- Learner support

*Identification of three stand-out practices (i.e. USPs), e.g:*

- Blackboard “hub”
- Interactive lectures
- Anonymised feedback

*Starting in 2015, the program will run year-round and Exemplary Course awards will be announced on a rolling basis.*