Engaging Distance Students

SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE TUTORIALS USING ZOOM IN LAW 201
In ten minutes or less!

- What is Law 201
- What was the problem
- How did I address it
- Resources
What is Law 201?

INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN LAW
What is Law 201?

- Undergraduate course
- To introduce basic legal concepts
- Taught blended on campus
- And online
- Annual enrollment = 1200
It’s a busy course
Assessments in the online course

- Two written assignments (Case Brief & Fact Pattern)
- Optional weekly check in multiple choice quizzes and crossword puzzles
- Optional discussion forum
- Online mid-term
- E-Poster (group project)
- Jeopardy Game (group project)
- Final Exam
What was the problem?

TEACHER SATISFACTION - STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
I was missing…

Student contact.

I love it – and they seem to want it, too.
Students online can disengage

what are other words for disengage?

free, disentangle, extricate, withdraw, disconnect, release, detach, liberate, loose, unfasten

Thesaurus.plus
Opportunities for me to engage directly with students are limited

- **Online Forum**
  - Lots to read
  - Too many to respond individually

- **Grading**
  - Mostly TAs
  - Troubleshooting only

- **Jeopardy Game**
  - Maybe 25 students
  - TAs do the rest
Student teacher connection is important to learning, and to job satisfaction.
How I addressed it

ONLINE TUTORIALS
Enter...

I thought I was a genius, and had invented this idea. Turns out I’m still a genius, but many others are doing this, too.

**SYNCHRONOUS**, set at specific times for log in - NOT video asynchronous.
Here’s what I learned – best practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Have clear takeaways</th>
<th>Use examples</th>
<th>Keep it short</th>
<th>Engage!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Pick a detailed example</td>
<td>• No more than 3</td>
<td>• Case study</td>
<td>• 40 minutes max</td>
<td>• Let them talk</td>
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Planning

It can’t be a freeform discussion.

You have to know exactly what you want to achieve.
Use a powerpoint
Use a case practical study

• From recent news
• From old news
• From your own research
What I did...

- Study of the wrongly convicted, using Steven Truscott
- Torts fact pattern - who is liable, and why
- Colton Bushie case - how are juries chosen? Why is it a problem?
- How do judges figure out custody? Fact pattern
Specifically…

Use Zoom
- Easy
- Click and log in

Share your screen
- Give your ppt lecture
- Keep it short

Engage
- Ask guided questions
- Discuss & enjoy!

GET IT? Star Trek Next Gen!!!
What is Zoom?

• Meeting software (like Skype only better)
• Replaces Adobe Connect
• Easy to use for you and students
• You can record and store the tutorial
Hints

Mute their mics (they “chat” in writing only)

Open your video and your mic (you talk)

Offer each tutorial at two different times

Give a participation grade

Check in at the end

Make the tutorial recording available in onQ
Links worth looking at for synchronous online tutorials

• University of Cincinnati:
  o http://guides.libraries.uc.edu/tutorialtools/planning

• Athabasca University
  o http://www.irrodl.org/index.php(irrodl/article/view/335/764

• Lynda.com


• (this is an interesting study which concludes that adding synchronous activities to an online course increases engagement).
A shoutout

I could not possibly be luckier. My Dean supports learning innovations.

Thank goodness. Because I would do them anyway, but because he supports them, I stay out of trouble. Mostly.
Thank you. I’m honoured to be here.