Dear Colleagues

In this February 2017 issue of the “Newsletter from DLTC”, the Departmental Learning and Teaching Committee (DLTC) has invited Dr K.T. Lo to share his good teaching and learning practices with colleagues.

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Dr Lo taught “EIE3333 Data and Computer Communications”, “EIE3117 Integrated Project” and “EIE3122 Introduction to Image and Video Processing/ EIE3108 Introduction to Multimedia Signal Processing II” in 2015/16 Semester 2. These subjects have received many positive comments from students.

Dr Lo has adopted similar arrangements for EIE3333 and EIE3122/EIE3108. He arranged a 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial session every week plus three 3-hour laboratory sessions for each student during the 13 teaching weeks. During tutorial and lab sessions, he would try to have more interaction time with students so as to know if the students understand the subject content, and would answer the students’ questions patiently.

Moreover, Dr Lo provided many examples to aid his teaching and distributed tutorial questions after each lecture for students’ practices. He arranged tests and examination in open-book format by allowing students to bring a self-prepared 1-page A4 size information sheet to the test/examination. Such arrangement relieved students from the pressure of rote memorization and encouraged them to spend effort on preparing the information sheet which in turn helped their preparation for the tests/examination. It turns out that these arrangements were welcome by the students.

As for EIE3117, which is an Integrated Project subject, Dr Lo endeavored to design an interesting project together with Dr Haibo Hu to arouse students’ interest. They required students to design an image-sharing platform and organized a few laboratory sessions to teach students the ways to use certain tools that could help produce the image-sharing platform. Students had to perform demonstrations on their work for 3 times and both Dr Lo and Dr Hu would give timely feedback to students for improvement. Dr Lo thought the students enjoyed this learning experience as what they did was practical.
What We Learn...

From Dr Lo’s experience, we found that the following might have contributed to positive learning experience for students:

(i) **Have More Interactions with Students and Answer their Questions Patiently**

Having more interactions with students to understand their learning progress and answering their questions patiently was welcome by the students.

(ii) **Provide Hands-on Experience with Sufficient Guidance**

Allowing students to engage in hands-on experience with sufficient guidance and support could enable them to realize the usefulness of the things they learnt and instilled in them a sense of achievement when they completed the tasks successfully.

(iii) **Cultivate Leisure Atmosphere for Learning**

Reducing learning pressure such as by avoiding the requirement of rote memorization could cultivate a leisure atmosphere which would in turn motivate students to learn.

The DLTC will continue to identify good learning and teaching practices for sharing. If you have any teaching practices and experience that you want to share with colleagues, you are welcome to send us your views anytime.

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