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Newsletter from DLTC

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Dear Colleagues

In this January 2016 issue of the "Newsletter from DLTC", the Departmental Learning and Teaching Committee (DLTC) has invited Dr Ivan Ho to share his good teaching and learning practices with colleagues.

Ivan taught "EIE575 Vehicular Communications and Inter-Networking Technologies" and "EIE360/ EIE3360 Integrated Project" in 2014/15 Semester 2, and the subject EIE575 received many positive comments from students.

EIE575 was mainly taken by MSc/PgD in Electronic and Information Engineering (05002) students. Some BEng(Hons) in Electronic Engineering (42079) students also took this subject as their final-year elective in 2014/15 Semester 2. Ivan told the class at the beginning of the semester that this subject is more research-oriented. He felt that for those who were interested in research would be more eager to learn this subject.

There was no examination for EIE575. Students were required to complete assignments and a mini-project as the assessments. For the assignments, each student was required to select two research papers relevant to the subject for review, then share their findings with classmates after reviewing the research papers during tutorials, and submit a written review report. Ivan would then give feedback on students' review reports through Blackboard. Ivan thought that students appreciated the feedback given.

For the mini-project, students had to form a group of three to propose a vehicular system by applying the theories they had learned in EIE575 classes and would be useful in the future. Each group needed to give an interim presentation and a final presentation on their proposed system. Students' performance was assessed by both Ivan and their peers. A Q & A session was arranged during the presentations. Ivan believed that these arrangements engaged the students actively in the whole learning process and hence students might gain a better understanding of the subject matter.

Ivan also supplemented his teaching with many existing examples and news of related technology to help students see the usefulness of the things he taught in real life. An optional laboratory session was arranged to teach students the techniques to evaluate vehicular communication models so that the students might apply the skills when they do their mini-project.

What We Learn...

From Ivan's experience, we found that the following might have contributed to positive learning experience for students:

(i) Encourage Student-led Learning

Allowing students freedom to choose and share reading materials relevant to the subject matter, evaluating their peer's performance and asking questions during the presentations, which encourage the students to be more engaged in the whole learning process.

(ii) Cite Examples and News of Related Technology

Citing many existing examples and news of related technology to help students see the usefulness of the things taught in classes in real life.

(iii) Clarify Expectation for Students

Explaining the subject nature clearly to students in the very beginning so that students would know the learning and teaching design and the teacher's expectations and requirements.

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.

Dr Daniel Lun

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