

Newsletter from DLTC

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Dear Colleagues

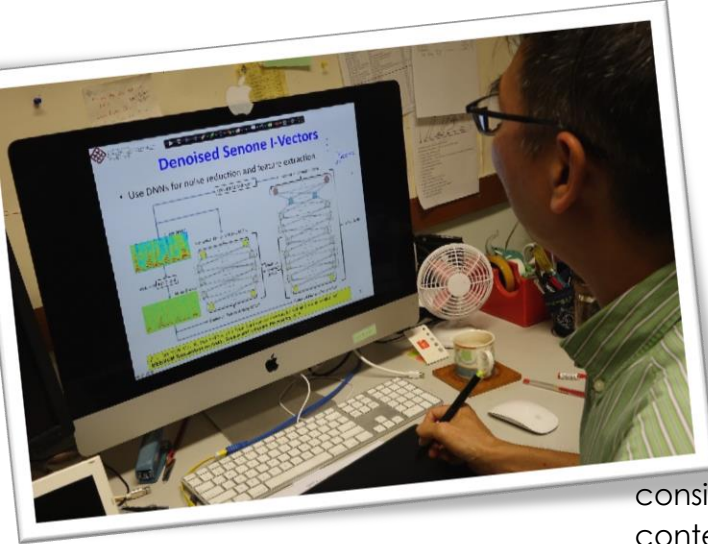
In this June 2018 issue of the “Newsletter from DLTC”, the Departmental Learning and Teaching Committee (DLTC) has invited Dr Man-Wai Mak to share his good teaching and learning practices with colleagues.



Dr Mak taught “EIE4105 Multimodal Human Computer Interaction Technology” in 2017/18 Semester 1, and “EIE4108 Distributed Systems and Cloud Computing” and “EIE558 Speech Processing and Recognition” in 2017/18 Semester 2. These subjects have received many positive comments from students.

For EIE4105 and EIE4108, Dr Mak went through the course structure with students during the first lecture, and explained to students why each topic was necessary for the subject. Dr Mak would also highlight the latest development in the industry as well as the career prospect associated with the subject. For EIE558, video clips were shown during the first lecture to demonstrate how speech recognition was applied in real-life situations. In this way, students could see the importance of the subject and decide if the subject suited their interests and abilities.

Dr Mak would make use of a Wacom writing pad to write notes, draw diagrams, or show mathematical derivations on top of Powerpoint slides during lectures to highlight important points and clarify areas which needed special attention. Students welcomed this method of presentation as they could follow the progress of the lectures closely and take photos of the notes very conveniently if they wanted to.



In addition, Dr Mak developed his own teaching website where all lecture notes, course schedule, past test papers and solutions as well as past examination papers were made available for students' reference. Students could know the schedule of his subjects well in advance and thus could

consider if the subject content matched their expectation and abilities. When students submitted assignments, they would be asked to submit them onto Blackboard for checking by SafeAssign. Online quizzes would be done on Blackboard to keep track of students' progress and sustain students' interest in the subject.

Moreover, the lab sessions had been well received by students as they were hands-on in nature, and they were closely linked to what had been taught in lectures.

What We Learn...

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



Clarify Expectation for Students -

Explaining the subject contents clearly to students in the very beginning as well as making available the course materials through self-developed website so that students would know the learning and teaching design and the teacher's expectations and requirements at an early stage.



Explain the Subject Contents Clearly -

Making use of aids such as a writing pad to write additional notes, show mathematical derivations, and draw diagrams on top of Powerpoint slides during lectures to highlight important points and clarify areas which needed special attention.



Provide Hands-on Experience -

Allowing students to engage in hands-on lab exercises which were related to lecture contents could enable them to realize the usefulness of the things they had learnt.

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 C.K. Leung
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