

# **BL Instruction Pedagogical Practice**

## **Institute-level TDG Project**

#### THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

**Programme:** Bachelor of Education Code:

Course Teachers and Teaching in

Title: Context Tutor: Darren A. Bryant

## **Description/Teaching Philosophy:**

The following values influence my approach to instructional design:

- 1. Students learn best when they have the opportunity to interact with and provide feedback to each other around core course concepts.
- 2. Students learn best when they have the opportunity use course concepts and theoretical frameworks to assess real world examples.
- 3. Student learn best when provided feedback and opportunity to improve on their learning.

Therefore, for each lesson I have endeavoured to design activities that follow these principles. To a significant degree, I have utilized blended learning as a conceptual framework to help me think through this design. Whilst my initial efforts in 2012-13 were to provide online learning opportunities that supported or complimented the course content, over the last year I have attempted to more deliberately utilize the principles of blended learning (the use of technology to align and mediate in-class and out-of-class learning experiences). I have developed the below figure based on Bonk & Brahman (2005) and Gonzalez (2012) to illustrate the various approaches to blended learning. My focus has been to shift my own instruction from teacher centred instruction (in which technology is often used simply to post lecture materials and readings) towards instruction that supports thinking and reflection and collaborative and constructivist

Material Provision

practices.

Communication

- Thinking & Reflectio
  - Online tasks

Construction &

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- Collaborative strategies
- Peer-to-neer discussion

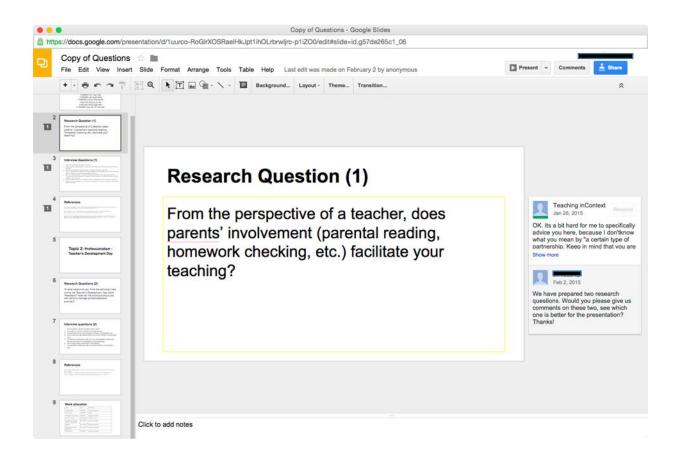


In order to operationalize blended learning, I have attempted in face-to-face courses to utilize a mix on online and small group learning activities. The online activities have been used variously for the purposes of (a) pre-lesson tasks that introduce students to the concepts that will be taught during class; (b) as reflective activities based on in-class group discussion and lectures; (c) less frequently, to deliver free-standing micro-lessons that connect to related topics in the syllabus or to skills needed to complete summative assessments.

## Sample Activities and the Artefacts:

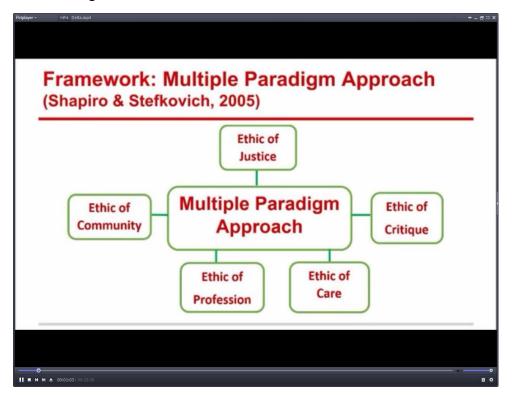
Students worked in groups to develop an online presentation. There were three uses of Blended Learning to achieve this:

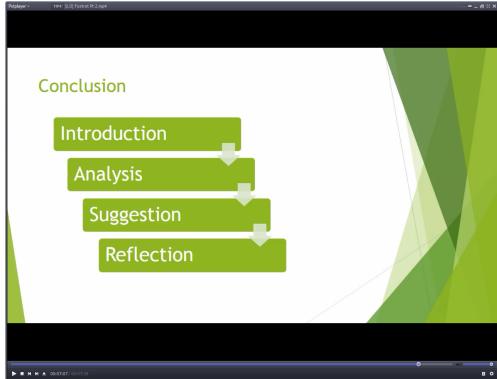
(1) The initial development was support by the use of Google slides. Google slides allowed students to prepare the presentation in stages and to give and receive feedback. All members of the group can view and contribute to the presentation.





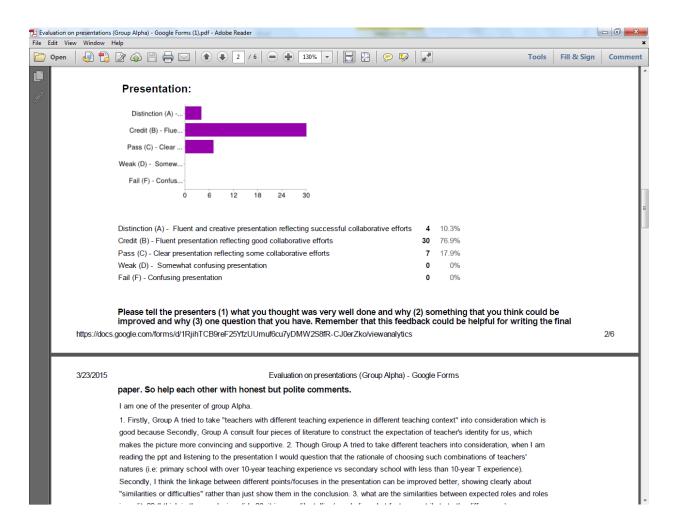
(2) Each group developed a video presentation which was posted either on Youtube or Google Drive. Links to the videos were distributed to all students.





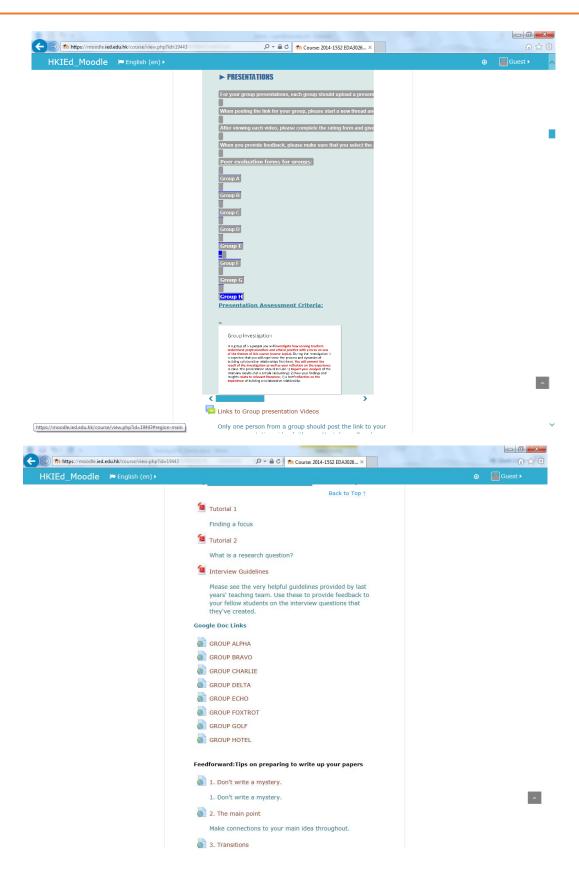


(3) All student peer-assessed each video using an online rubric built in Google Forms. The results were distributed to the presenters.



- (4) The above was supported through in class activities that included: (1) brief tutorial sessions on the research process (including data collection and analysis); (2) lessons around topics selected for the research projects; (3) consultation meetings on work in progress.
- (5) Links to (1), (2) and (3), and instructional materials for (4) were presented on Moodle.







### **Effectiveness and Lessons Learnt:**

The results of the student survey on this course suggest that students were generally willing to take the course, and they were interested in the course topics. In reference to the four types of motivations, their score on the identified motivation was the highest, whereas that on the introjected motivation was the lowest. In addition, their enthusiasm for the course was strong. As regards their preferences for instructional methods, the results showed that all the instructional methods were acceptable to students. Case-based studies were mostly preferred by students and professional sharing from relevant sectors came the second. Peer evaluations and critique was least preferred. In addition, students scored generally highly on their engagements in behavior, cognition, and positive emotion. They also had much more positive affect than negative affect. Moreover, students rated their before-class, during-class, and afterclass emotions. It was found that students scored highly on positive emotion than negative emotion in all stage of attending the class, and the positive emotion was most highly rated at the during-class stage.

This was a first attempt. For the next attempt there are some possible areas to further develop:

- 1. The use of comments in Google slides as a means of dialogue around developing the presentation could be more fully utilized.
- 2. Student survey suggests that they had interest and motivation in learning. Then, we need to keep and facilitate their interest and motivation.
- 3. Optional tutorials on the research and writing process were not well attended. This may need to be required and occur during class.