Implementing self-directed learning online and in-person

Educamp 2021
13 July 2021
Implementing self-directed learning online and in-person
Giancarlo Flores: “I have tried Perusall before but yes, being able to comment on videos, and allowing students to do the same (like I do in class!) is a welcome addition! I have never used as many videos as I do now during remote learning, and this tool seems like a good way to make students participate in pre-learning sessions that include said videos.”
Ma Alejandra Ruano: “I think the platform could be very useful for those students who are usually shy and do not want to speak up during class. In this way, they get to interact with others without much pressure.”

Quote from Carmen Pellicer (via Menu Pluri): “Innovations in education means to discover what goes on in the minds of students when we teach”
Goal of this session

demonstrate how to integrate Perusall in your teaching approach
information transfer

sense-making
Perusall Feedback — Pedagogy

- motivating students
- instructor involvement
Motivating students

Claudia Elizabeth Schander: “A real problem is the fact that a great number of students do not comply with the requirements!”

Ana T: “Sometimes students don’t read the provided material prior class, how to manage those circumstances during the synchronous part of the class?”
Motivating students

Moises Augustin Naranjo Castro: “I would like to know how easy it is for teachers to handle this tool, and how they encourage its use among their students, only with a mandatory note or are there other mechanisms?”
class test results

percent of students

number of chapters missed before class
“I did not plan on leaving a comment when I started reading the article, but as soon as I saw others’ comments, it encouraged me to participate in the conversation or at least do more than just reading. Is it called ‘following the herd’ or ‘social pressure’? Interesting! ”
Reading Assignment Overview

Because there are no lectures in AP50, you will be using Perusall to familiarize yourself interactively with the basic content of the course. You will do so by reading one chapter per week from a textbook that evolved from a set of lecture notes for an introductory physics course. The textbook, *Principles and Practice of Physics* (Eric Mazur, Pearson 2015) is available at no cost in Perusall. If you want a printed copy, you can purchase the book via one of the many online textbook vendors, but this is neither required nor necessary.

The Perusall platform permits you to interact asynchronously with other students in the class and help each other build a deeper understanding by annotating and discussing the material within the context of the text you are reading.

If you haven’t yet done so, watch this short introductory video about Perusall before proceeding.

Purpose of the reading assignments

The goal of the reading is to gain sufficient knowledge to be able to participate in subsequent activities in a meaningful way — just as a lecture would (but now you can do it at your own convenience and pace, and you can interact with others). The goal is not to master every little detail — the other activities are designed to reinforce your understanding of the important principles before you begin to apply them in the projects. There is no need to memorize any of the information in the text, as you will always have access to it. Therefore you can focus on understanding, rather than memorizing.

Fostering a community of learners in Perusall

Perusall is your space and provides a good opportunity to create happenstance encounters and build an online community of learners. The teaching team will not participate in the discussions in Perusall, although to help facilitate and bootstrap both the conversation and your critical thinking about the material, we will pre-annotate the chapters in Perusall with a number of questions that students in previous years have asked. The Perusall Curators Program, however, permits some of the most burning lingering questions or points of confusion to be transferred to the #persusall-loose-ends channel on Slack, where everyone, including members of the teaching team, can join in on a conversation.

With this space on Perusall for interacting with others also comes the responsibility of maintaining professionalism. It is important to always behave respectfully, even with conflicting view points. While there is no moderation of the annotations on Perusall, you can anonymously report an annotation if you deem it to be inappropriate or plagiarized. Click the small ‘hazard’ triangle underneath the annotation and the annotation will be removed until it is reviewed by the teaching team.
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Purpose of the reading assignments

The purpose of the reading assignments is to provide sufficient knowledge to be able to participate in subsequent activities in a meaningful way — just as a lecture would. This means you will have to maintain a balance between an interest in getting the 'right' answer and not to master every little detail — the other activities are designed to reinforce your understanding of the important principles before you begin to apply them in the projects. There is no need to memorize any of the information in the text, as you will always have access to it. Therefore you can focus on understanding, rather than memorizing.

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Instructor involvement

Lucía Ling: “Does the instructor intervene with questions during the students’ reading work?”

Liliana Alencastro: “How interesting! Is this pre-class interaction only for students or is it recommended for the teacher to be present or monitoring?”
Carola Bruna: “All of this seems so obvious, what is not obvious is how to do it, specially with large courses.”
Instructor involvement

How I prepared myself
Perusall Feedback — Technology

- scoring
- grouping
- content
Scoring

Menu Pluri: “[Does Perusall] create an evaluation according what I comment in the paper? WOW, it would be amazing”

Moises Augustin Naranjo Castro: “Do teachers need to configure this parameters (for example, the number of participations students need) or does the system do it automatically?”
Grouping

Ana Lynch: “So I guess the max number of students per group is 20 (before Perusall breaks the group into smaller ones), how about a minimum number of students? Would you recommend this for small groups of 5 to 6 students?”

María Sol Garcés: “Can we create the groups?”
LMS

Redy Risco: “Is it possible to integrate this tool in conventional LMS, CANVAS for example?”
Redy Risco: “Somebody knows if this platform is free?”
Documents you can use with Perusall

- PDF, Word, html, or ePub files (free)
- video—YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, Dropbox (free)
- open access material (free)
- source code with syntax highlighting (free)
- books (purchased by students or institution)
Reflection

• asynchronous preparation

• synchronous time for discussion
Reflection

- asynchronous preparation
- synchronous time for discussion
- dig deeper post-session
May 17–28

perusall.com/exchange

Dear Eric,

Perusall adoptions have grown quickly across disciplines worldwide. Instructors have shared many creative pedagogical strategies with us so we thought it was time to provide a forum for our community to share best practices and creative solutions for engaging students in online learning. We are pleased to announce

Perusall Exchange 2021
An event for innovators in teaching
May 17-28, 2021

The Perusall Exchange 2021 will be held within the Perusall platform to permit synchronous discussion with and between participants. The event will also include virtual, synchronous exchanges of ideas between presenters and participants.

We are now accepting proposals at exchange@perusall.com. Our theme is Transform Teaching and Learning with Perusall. Proposals should be no more than 400 words or two minutes in length if submitted in video form. Submissions should emphasize the relationship between pedagogy and Perusall e.g., how to implement. The deadline for proposals is May 15, 2021.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Upgrading to Instructor Account

• log in to your Perusall Account
• click “Enroll in Course”
• enter code: VVTQIBJNVK
for a copy of this presentation:

mazur.harvard.edu

additional resources in Perusall course

also see bit.ly/fliponline

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