Transform your teaching with Perusall

Webinar
March 8, 2021
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@eric_mazur
Goal of this session
demonstrate how to integrate Perusall in your teaching approach
information transfer

sense-making
Rebecca Quinn: “I’ve just started using Perusall this semester, and so far I’m loving it and can’t wait to learn more!”

Guido Reverdito: “By using Perusall students can be under the impression that they are discussing readings in a classroom even if they are actually at home.”
Icebreaker – Meet your team!

Discuss pre-assignment on Perusall
Perusall Feedback — Pedagogy

• motivating students
• instructor involvement
• results
Motivating students

Falko Pientka: “Yes, that’s a point I am grappling with [...] . Students are used to doing exercises but they are not used to reading before class, so my class will seemingly demand more work than other classes.”

Phil Duker: “Using JiTT quizzes or these Perusall assignments can greatly increase student participation in preparatory activities.”
Motivating students

Melanie Law: “I am wondering how to frame the reading assignments [...]. I will be interested to hear if there are guidelines and best practices around how an instructor frames the reading?”

Rosie Bolen: “How much weight do instructors put on the grades for Perusall in the final course grade?”
Reading Assignment Overview

Because there are no lectures in APP50, 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 viewpoints. 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.

Maximizing your benefit from these assignments

Research on the use of Perusall shows that students who do the following perform better in the course overall:
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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 have to fit your own convenience and pace, and you can interact with others). The goal is not to master every minute detail – the other activities will help you understand the material as you go. You will be able to annotate the text of the readings during the week, and you will be able to review the content at any time. Perusall helps you learn the material, not memorize any of the information in the text so you will always have access to it. Therefore, you can focus on understanding rather than memorizing.

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Instructor involvement

Nuno João Neves Mamede: “Does the instructor answer it on the platform, or in the next class?”

Filippo Tronconi: “I struggle to find a good balance between discussing specific points [of] the assigned readings, and [leading] students through the whole topic of the day.”
Results

Christina Johnson: “Are there studies to demonstrate the use of Perusall has increased the percentage of those that complete readings?”

Judith Levine: “In addition to how using Perusall improves student performance on exams, I am interested in how it affects their behavior during class. Do you find that it leads them to more readily engage in discussion?”
research data

percent of students

number of chapters missed before class

I don't understand how factors tell you any lever arm distance both a and b know some sort of direction.

I think you may be a direction separately distance, you can attach the parameters of the system, explain how to choose the.

This is a great question. I can think of this in terms of the moment for the force. We know that force is just the distance to the point where the force is applied. In general, the moment of the force is nothing about the ability of a force.

Example 12.2 Torques on lever

Three forces are exerted on the lever of Figure 12.7. Forces $F_1$ and $F_2$ are equal in magnitude, and the magnitude of $F_3$ is half as great. Force $F_1$ is horizontal, $F_2$ and $F_3$ are vertical, and the lever makes an angle of 45° with the horizontal. Do these forces cause the lever to rotate about the pivot? If so, in which direction?
Instructor involvement

How I prepared myself
Perusall Feedback — Technology

- confusion report
- grouping
- scoring
- other features
Confusion report

Sally Ann Smesko: “Would be interesting to see what this looks like!”
Leena Lankoski: “Can you turn the sectioning off? If for some reason you judge that it would be best - or can you then just set the threshold to 300 or something? And can the threshold be different for different assignments?”
Sally Ann Smesko: “How does a student know his score? Is the value explained to the student so that s/he would know what to do to improve the score or improve for overall success in the course?”
Features

Tamara O’Callaghan: “Does Perusall allow students to turn on [...] closed captioning? Can you tell me briefly about accessibility in Perusall?”

Mitra Asgarinik: “Are alternative views available for viewing comments? While I appreciate having the side-by-side for context, it would be nice to view a larger panel to previewing the discussion thread.”
research data

close to 95%!
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
Upgrading to Instructor Account

• log in to your Perusall Account
• click “Enroll in Course”
• enter code: VVTQIBJNVK