

Why actually happened?

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Zooming to Class?: Experimental Evidence on College Students' Online Learning during COVID-19

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Setting

- West Point Military Academy
- Everyone takes the same classes, so there are many sections.
- Due to social distancing requirements during COVID, in-person classrooms couldn't fit everyone.
- Each in-person and online class allowed for 12 and 18 students respectively.
- Students randomized into section (337 in online and 214 in person).

Result

- Students online earned .234 standard deviations lower grade, around half a +/- grade.

Figure 2: Cumulative Distributive Function for Final Course Grade by Teaching Modality

