# Personal Connection in an Online World - Teaching Cafe 2021

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# Big Takeaways

- Small, purposeful changes can have a large impact
- Find something that is authentic to you and your voice
- Try to find one thing you want to implement or try from today

Before Term Starts

## Goals

- Have students put a face and voice to my name
- Allow them to see me as a person beyond maker of content
- ► Give them easy to follow instructions
- Set a clear tone that I will be helpful

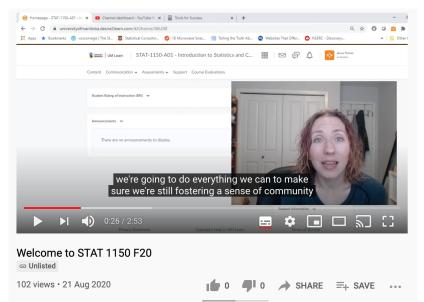
#### Welcome Letter

In the UMLearn announcements and a first-class folder, I had a document available where I wrote an introductory letter to my students. I included:

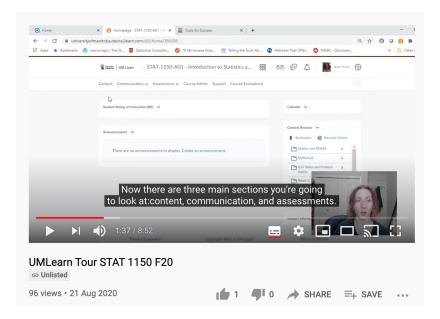
- Information about myself
- Information about my teaching philosophy
- Reassurances that I have their backs

#### Intro Videos

#### Welcome to the course



## **UMLearn** Tour



## Other Videos

#### Also great for:

- Learning platforms
- ► Clicker registration
- ► Introductory assignments

## Tools

- OBS (talking head in corner videos)
- ▶ Quicktime (screen shares no video)
- Empty Zoom session
- Youtube App
- Host an unlisted YouTube video, only accessible through link

# Captioning YouTube

- Autocaptioning
- Correct manually auto caption
- Caption yourself
- ► Third party captioning you correct

# Getting to Know You Survey

In UMLearn I created a quiz with a few questions for students to complete in the first few weeks of term. I asked them about things such as:

- ▶ Why they are enrolled in the course?
- ▶ Do they have technology concerns?
- What should I know about the way they learn?
- ▶ How comfortable are they with computer programming?
- Do they have any questions for me?

# During Term

#### Goals

- Give students a consistent place to look for messages
- Demonstrate the could reliably count on my communication
- Make sure they knew I was thinking about them
- Avoid many emails with repeat questions

# Weekly Check-ins

Each Sunday evening or Monday morning I would send out an email with:

- ► Small greeting, words of encouragement
- ► Reminder of all classes (synchronous and asynchronous)
- Reminder of labs
- List of all things due that week
- Looking ahead reminder for things coming up
- Random things I found interesting over the weekend

# Daily Class Threads

For each synchronous session I created a discussion post where I created the first thread with:

- Announcements
- Quick recap / highlights
- Suggestions on what to work on for the next class

# One-Minute Papers / Exit Slips

After each synchronous session students have a prompt question to answer on UMLearn.

- Open for 24 hours
- Take one to two minutes to complete
- Marked entirely for making a genuine effort to complete, not for correctness
- Next class starts off with a discussion of the responses. I make a summary document available
- Students encouraged to add any extra questions/comments they have for me here
- ► Worth about 5% as a participation mark

# One-Minute Papers / Exit Slips

#### Some examples of types of questions:

- ▶ Give an example of when you've seen the concept of \*\*\* in your daily life
- ► How have you used \*\*\* in your other classes
- ► Explain back to me the concept of \*\*\* in your own words
- Why do you think \*\*\* would be inappropriate to use in \*\*\* setting

Once a month I would typically have an open ended check-in question inviting them to ask me any questions they had in general or perhaps about the assignment they were working on.

# A Few Closing Anecdotes

Who doesn't love dogs?

Finding small ways to learn about students and then demonstrating that you remember the things they've shared goes a long way to building trust and community.



"Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care."