

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

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/d2l/home/386208`. The page header includes the University of Manitoba logo, "UM Learn", and the course title "STAT-1150-A01 - Introduction to Statistics and C...". Below the header, there are navigation links: "Content", "Communication", "Assessments", "Support", and "Course Evaluations". The main content area features a "Student Rating of Instruction (SRI)" section and an "Announcements" section with the message "There are no announcements to display.".

Overlaid on the page is a video player. The video shows a woman with red hair speaking. A subtitle at the bottom of the video reads: "we're going to do everything we can to make sure we're still fostering a sense of community". The video player controls show a progress bar at 0:26 / 2:53, along with icons for play, pause, volume, and other controls. Below the video player, the text "Welcome to STAT 1150 F20" is displayed, followed by a status "Unlisted". At the bottom, it shows "102 views • 21 Aug 2020" and social sharing options: "0" likes, "0" comments, "SHARE", "SAVE", and a menu icon.

UMLearn Tour

Home | Homepage - STAT-1150-A01 - Introduction to Statistics a... | Tools for Success

universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com/d2l/home/386208

Apps | Bookmarks | voxcovegij | The St... | Statistical Consultin... | 18 Microwave Snac... | Telling the Truth Ab... | Websites That Offer... | NSERC - Discovery...

UMLearn | STAT-1150-A01 - Introduction to Statistics a... | Jemma Tichon

Content | Communication | Assessments | Course Admin | Support | Course Evaluations

Student Rating of Instruction (SRI)

Announcements

There are no announcements to display. [Create an announcement.](#)

Calendar

Content Browser

Bookmarks | Recently Visited

Outline and ROASS

MyStatLab

Unit Slides and Problem Sheets

Week 1

Now there are three main sections you're going to look at: content, communication, and assessments.

1:37 / 8:52

Privacy Statement | Copyright Help in UM Learn | Support Information | Terms of Service

UMLearn Tour STAT 1150 F20

Unlisted

96 views • 21 Aug 2020



1



0



SHARE



SAVE



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 they 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.

How do they know you care?

“Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.”