

A new approach to our engineering teaching

(aka engaging large groups through blended
learning)

Sam Marsh

January 2014

Background

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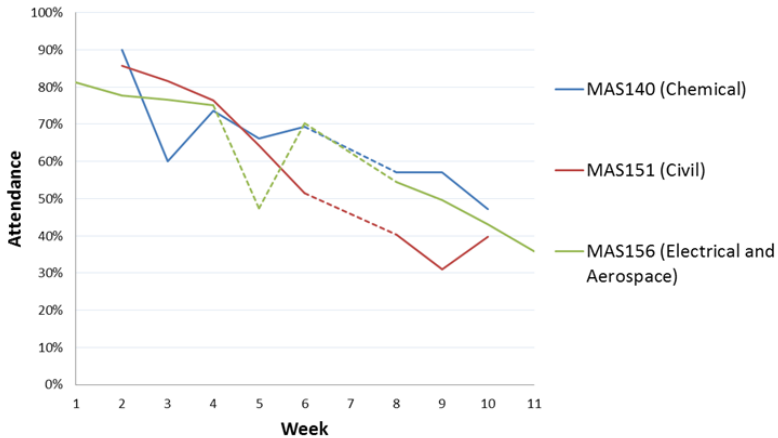
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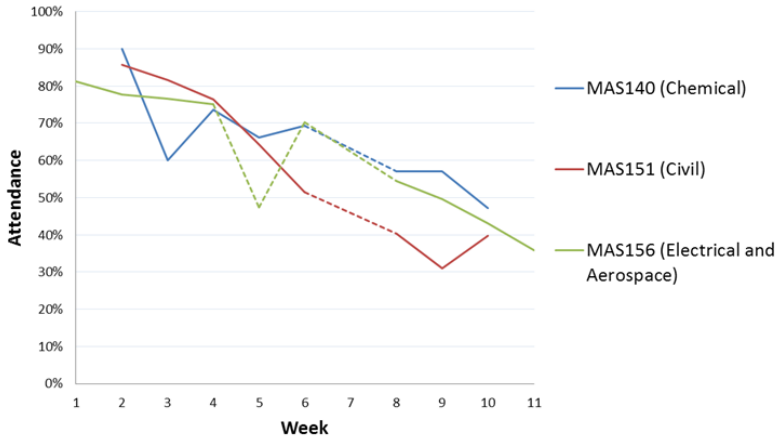
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Attendance at problem classes has tended to taper off as the semester progresses.

Problem class attendance, Semester 1 2013-14

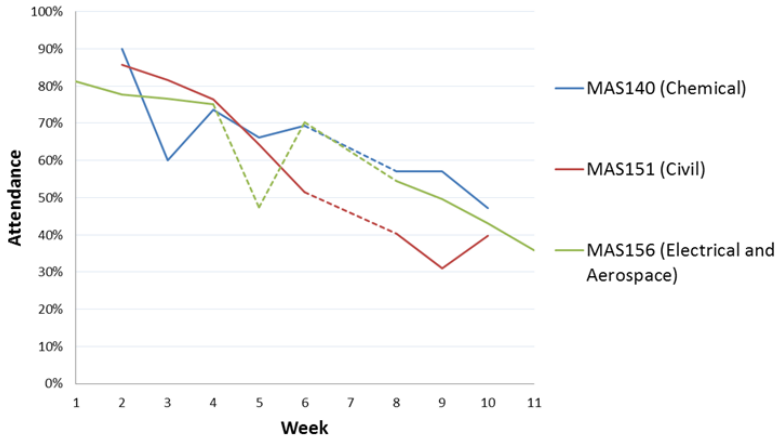


Problem class attendance, Semester 1 2013-14



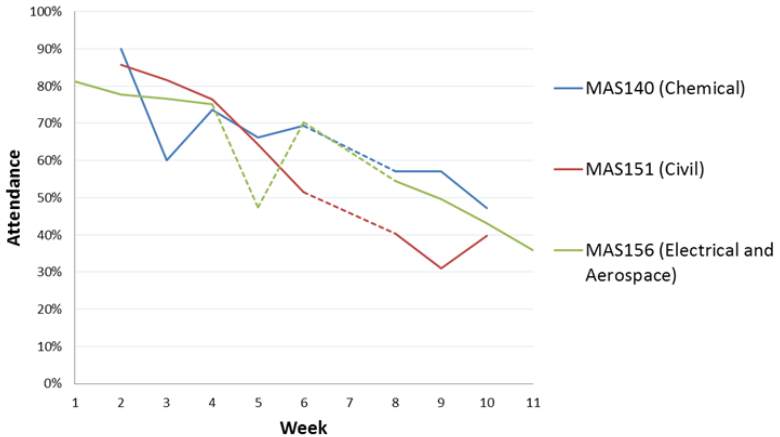
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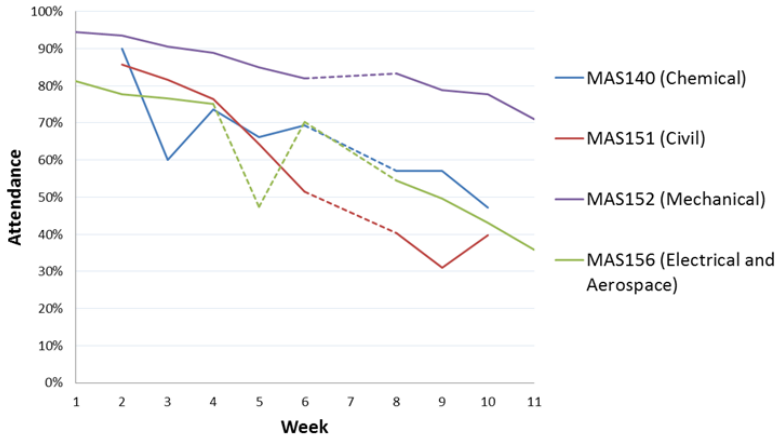
- Week 7 was a reading week; MAS156 was affected by strike action in Week 5.

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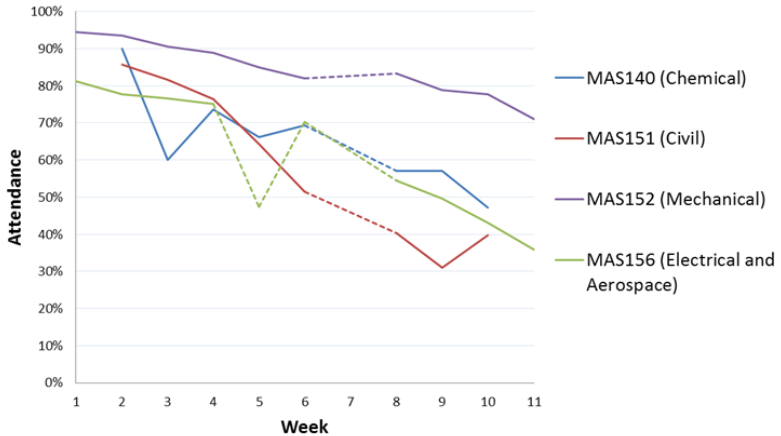
- Week 7 was a reading week; MAS156 was affected by strike action in Week 5.
- MAS140 and MAS151 had class tests in Week 11 (data omitted).

Problem class attendance, Semester 1 2013-14



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- Feedback from the staff-student forum has been very positive.

About the new format

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(This format was devised by Nick Gurski, based on videos made by Simon Willerton and Eugenia Cheng, and with input from Stephen Beck in Mechanical Engineering.)

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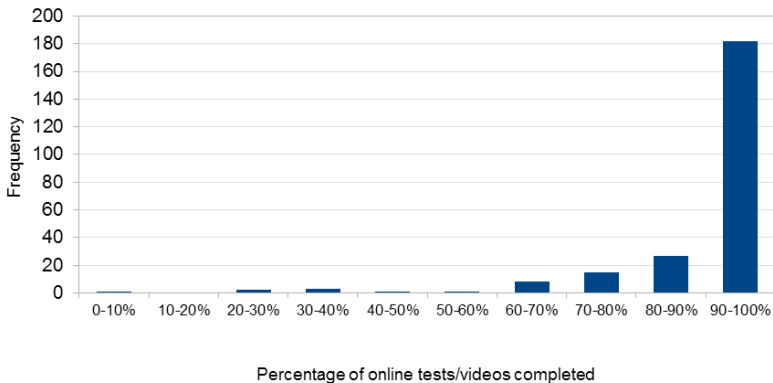
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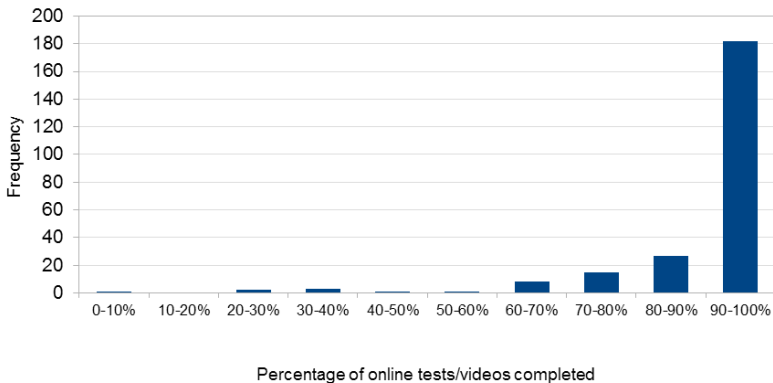
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Online test/video completions



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- 98 of the 240 students completed all of the videos on time.

The videos

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The delivery system

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Details about AiM can be found at <http://aim.shef.ac.uk/AiM/doc/>, or ask Neil or Simon or Eugenia or me or...

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Students are encouraged to work in a groups of 4 on the problems, meeting people in the process. Tutors report their students engaging well with the material and using the class productively, which hasn't always been the case in the past.

Speculation

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 - The students experience the course as if they are in a group of size 40 rather than 240 and get to know their tutor well.
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Course materials

You can view the materials for the module on the course webpage, <http://sam-marsh.staff.shef.ac.uk/mas152>.

You can try out the video system using the link below.

<http://aim.shef.ac.uk/AiM/Alice?SubjectName=Test>
username:engineering, password:letmein