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Key Details

Transcript

(1) 29 Mar 2021

Course design and delivery Student engagement

Jonathan Sim

National University of Singapore



online

Key Details

generation of students.

This video will cover:

03:54 Using the Telegram helpline to foster a positive learning culture

00:25 What drives student anxieties and their impact on learning

Transcript Hello, my name is Jonathan Sim. I'm an instructor at the National University of Singapore,

02:26 Using the Telegram messaging app as a learning support system when teaching

where I teach an interdisciplinary module, computational reasoning, to 700 students in arts and social sciences each semester. Now I've been teaching since 2017, and I found that there are many, many challenges to interdisciplinary learning that are unique to this

when it comes to learning something outside their intended major. And many students of this generation, you know, they've made it to university without

encountering failure in their prior years of schooling, and so having to do a module outside what they are competent or familiar with, oh, that introduces the idea that they might have to experience failure for the very, very first time. And this induces a great deal of stress and anxiety in them. Here I wish to highlight that this problem is not unique to Singaporean students alone. In fact, I have encountered many international students enrolled in my module voicing the exact same anxieties

In my discussion with students, I found that many of them have high levels of anxiety

towards interdisciplinary learning. Now this issue is compounded when the model is taught in the blended learning format, where students learn part of the module in isolation at home.

There they cannot see their peers, and they cannot compare how they are doing with

respect to their classmates. Because of these anxieties – oh, you know students, they

imagine that there are so many others doing better than them, and the moment they

face a struggle, they are quick to imagine that they are the only ones encountering it, struggling with it. So this further perpetuates the stress, and it affects their motivation to learn as they do not see any chance or hope in doing well. This also affects students' willingness to ask for help.

They are afraid of wasting the instructor's time or embarrassing themselves by saying the

wrong thing, so they feel a need to prepare themselves well. However, I've come to realise

sometimes struggle in trying to articulate their questions. And in such a situation, these students, they never reach a situation where they feel ready enough to approach the instructor for help.

Overall, these anxieties, this self-imposed stress, they inhibit students from learning

effectively, and I found that these issues, they must be addressed first if we want to

In my years of teaching, the Telegram messaging app has become a very integral support

system for me as an educator. It helps to alleviate students' anxieties and empower them

in their learning. So each semester, I create a Telegram helpline where students can seek

new questions and add to my library of questions and answers that everyone can access

Now Telegram is a very, very powerful platform because students can seek help even

anonymously. And it really, really helps with student motivation because students can see

movement on the helpline in the form of other students asking for help, and that really

The questions also make visible the kinds of struggles that their peers face, so students

stream of questions and answers that are coming in on the helpline now.

motivates them to get started on the work, because they know they can benefit from the

assure and motivate students to learn well in their interdisciplinary modules.

that, because the student is dealing with a subject so alien, so foreign to them, they

help directly from me or from one of my teaching assistants. It allows me to interact very closely with them. It allows me to show them that I'm serious in wanting to help them learn well. I answer questions without judgement, I collect the

for their benefit at any time.

together.

of collaboration.

that they are not good enough.

another.

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bye.

see this and it makes them aware that they are not struggling alone. So it helps them feel more confident about their learning and about themselves. And more importantly, it greatly reduces their anxieties over learning something so new, so daunting, knowing that they can come to me or my teaching assistants for help, even if

they struggle to articulate the problem because we will help them to figure it out

positive learning culture for students. It allows me to demonstrate good learning

Now what I really love about the helpline is that it allows me to shift and foster a very

qualities, good learning values, and shift the mindset away from competitiveness to that

And as I foster trust in my students and create a safe environment for them to seek help, students, more students begin to participate actively on the helpline in helping to answer the questions posed by their peers. And I know I've succeeded with cultivating that positive learning culture when I can see other students regularly helping one another with the struggles on the platform. Knowing that help is just a text message away or that

there is a comprehensive library of questions and answers that they can refer to anytime

They recognise that it is possible to master something so completely new and foreign to

them entirely on their own, and they would not have to face the situation of discovering

So, to conclude, I just want to say I found the Telegram helpline to be such a wonderful

to verify their understanding, this empowers students greatly.

learning tool because it helps to alleviate a lot of the anxieties and stress that students encounter with interdisciplinary learning. Students know that help is readily available every step of the way. And they know, they are aware, that they are not struggling alone; that the helpline helps to foster that community of learning; that they know they are not struggling alone and they can rely on one another for help, not to compete for grades but to really discover and learn with one

So, thank you so much for listening and I hope this has been helpful for you. So, see you,

This video was produced by Jonathan Sim, an instructor in the department of

philosophy, National University of Singapore.

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Both abortion pills, mifepristone and misoprostol, are usually used in order to terminate a pregnancy. Mifepristone causes the embryo to detach from the uterus thereby cutting off essential nutrients and oxygen carried by the blood. Misoprostol is then taken two days later and triggers the evacuation of the embryo remnants through the vagina. This often appears as a heavy period. It is advisable that you consult with your medical practitioner for a further understanding of how the abortion pill works. IS THE ABORTION PILLS SAFE? The abortion pill is usually safer than a medical abortion or surgical abortion but should only be considered in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Like any procedure, use of the abortion pill can result in complications but if used under the supervision of a medical doctor, the chances of complications are greatly reduced. Your doctor will be best suited to handle any complications should they arise. DANGERS AND SIDE EFFECTS OF THE ABORTION PILLS? 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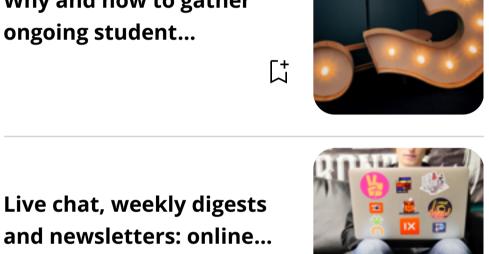
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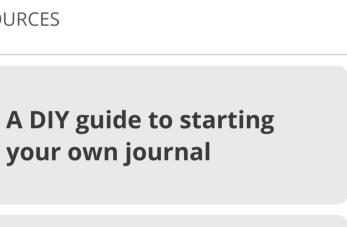
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