Guidance for Students – Blended Learning

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What is blended learning?

Blended Learning

- Traditional combined with online

- Blend of media and tools in e-learning

- Blend of different pedagogical approaches, with no distinction between technology choice

- Combining a range of delivery approaches

- Mixing didactic with non-didactic approaches

Whitelock, D. & Jelfs, A. (2003) Editorial: Journal of Educational Media Special Issue on Blended Learning, Journal of Educational Media, 28(2-3), pp. 99-100.

Flipped Learning Structure

Before
- Prepare for class
- Explore content (e.g. mini-lectures, guided reading,..)

During
- Complete activities to enhance learning
- Identify areas of confusion

After
- Consolidate learning and understanding
- Extend learning

What are the potential benefits?

- Improved **attendance** and grades Hamdan *et al*. 2013

- Improved **grades** DesLauriers, Schelew and Wieman 2011

- Improved student **engagement**, University of Manchester Computing Science School 2014

- Improved **grades** and higher **retention** .. for female students Latulipe, Rorrer, Long 2018

How should I start?

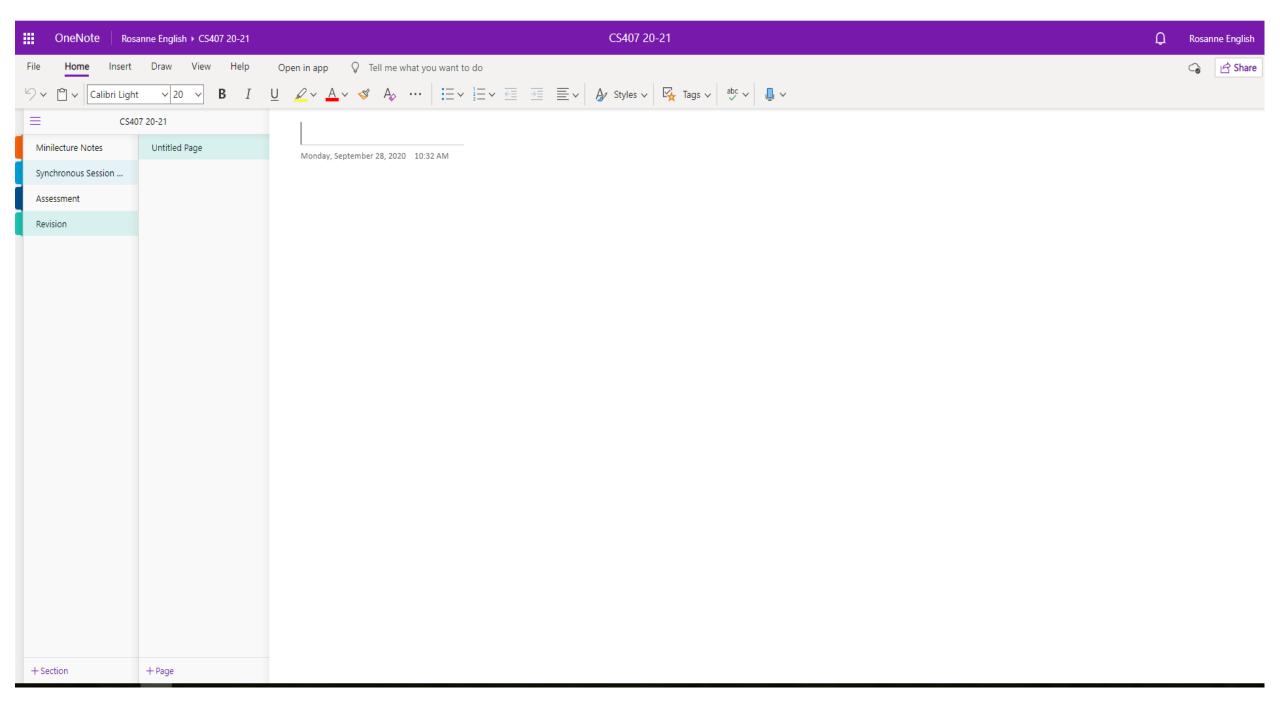# Identify what is expected of you for each module

- University timetables - https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/timetables/

- MyPlace page for each module
  - Days, times, duration
  - Zoom details
  - Typical structure, preparation requirements
  - Assessment details and deadlines
  - Reading list

Setting your Structure

- When are your synchronous sessions for each module?

- What are you required to complete before these sessions?

- Timetable preparation for synchronous teaching sessions

- Be realistic, incorporate breaks

Technical and Space Setup

- Internet access, use of computer https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/scholarships/

- Quiet space https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/library/coronavirus/welcomebacktothelibrary/

- Specific software? Modules should make this clear

- Note taking software, (Office365) calendar

- Always ensure Zoom is up to date, and that you log in using your university account https://strath.zoom.us/

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How do I prepare for a synchronous teaching session and get the most from it?

Watching Educational Videos (Minilectures)

- Focus – it's not Netflix
- Take notes not transcripts
- Spaced learning
- After watching in full once, re-watch selectively
- You can't ask a video questions

Adapted from guidance suggested by Nordmann, E. *et al.* (2018)
Lecture capture: Practical recommendations for students and instructors. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/sd7u4

Watch Parties..

Groups of students watch mini-lectures together over the internet

Pros

- Accountability
- Sense of community
- Peer support
- Peer learning

Caution

- It can be easier to think you are "getting it" if you work in a group consistently

Note taking

- Cornell University online module covering note taking https://canvas.cornell.edu/courses/1451

- Cornell method https://medium.goodnotes.com/study-with-ease-the-best-way-to-take-notes-2749a3e8297b

- Overview of different approaches https://collegeinfogeek.com/how-to-take-notes-in-college/

Building a sense of community

- Watch parties
- Study groups
- Breakout rooms in class

How to work in a breakout room

- Ensure you know what is being asked of you, if you're not sure, click the "ask for help" button

- Nominate a leader

- Work on active listening to ensure all viewpoints are heard

- Identify a time limit, and work to it

- Assign additional roles if needed e.g. devil's advocate, note taker, ..

- https://uni.edu/~reineke/guidelin.htm

Get the most out of contact time

- Come prepared with questions
- Speak with your peers and engage in activities designed to enhance your learning

How do I maintain engagement?

Motivation

- Intrinsic vs. extrinsic
- Intrinsic – love to learn, challenge, co-operation, competition, ..
- Extrinsic – "good" mark, external reward,..

Quizzes

- Provide quick feedback on your understanding

- May be formally assessed

- Come up with your own questions and work in groups

Productivity techniques

- Pomodoro technique https://lifehacker.com/productivity-101-a-primer-to-the-pomodoro-technique-1598992730

- Schedule your activities

- Maintain a daily working structure

- Define daily/weekly goals

- Be mindful of your mental health https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/disabilityandwellbeing/mentalhealthwellbeingsupport/

University Support

- https://classes.myplace.strath.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=19550 Study skills at strath MyPlace page

- https://classes.myplace.strath.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=24679 Academic Library Skills asynchronous self-directed course covering skills such as plagiarism, referencing, and advanced search techniques

- https://helpdesk.strath.ac.uk/support/home Strathclyde University's new support portal, which guides you to advice on questions you may have, and connects you with support staff if needed. https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/library/coronavirus/welcomebacktothelibrary/ Library website specifically addressing the library environment and services during COVID-19.

- https://careerhub.strath.ac.uk/students/news/detail/5 Careers service COVID-19 Info

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