

# Reflections on the teaching of a first year course

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- Back ground
- Class results
- Interventions
- Student reflection
- Digest

## Some background

- First year course (year long)
- 20 credits
- Taken by subset of "main" class
- Service course

*This is the toughest course I have had to do at univ so far. I am coming to the end of my third year ...*

(quote from a past year student)

## Some background

- First year course (year long)
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*My concerns:*

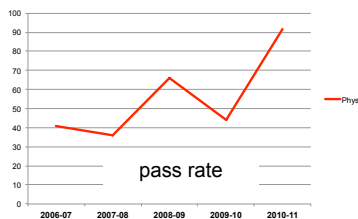
*Course load, timetable, diverse range of students*

*Common complain from students:*

*too much material, too difficult, lack relevance, 9am lectures*

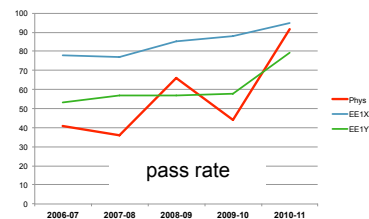
## Class results

Fluctuation  
Two data points ??



## Class results

Fluctuation  
Two data points ??



1. Mastering Physics
2. Face to face small group tutorials
3. Mindset messages
4. Specifically designed sessions
  - 4.1 class discussion
  - 4.2 session on revision methods
  - 4.3 peer and self assessments and feedback on lab report
  - 4.4 feedback sessions on tests
  - 4.5 mock class test
5. Refer to students by name

6. optional revision sessions
7. regular contact with the class
8. regular personalised "relative" feedback
9. revamped one of the courses at the start of the year
10. work closely with new teaching staff

**Message to the students:**

- A. in order to succeed **time on task**, you will need **self regulation**
- B. someone (I) cares **teacher monitoring** how you are doing
- C. you are not **peer support** to rely on the **peer support** and your peers can help each other

**What worked & what didn't**

time-on-task self reg monitoring peer

1. Mastering Physics	✓	✓	✓	?
2. Face to face small group tutorials	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Mindset messages	✓	✓		
4. Specifically designed sessions	?	✓	✓	✓
5. Refer to individuals by name			✓	
6. Optional revision sessions	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Regular contact with the class			✓	
8. Personalised "relative" feedback	?		✓	?
9. Start the year well		✓		?
10. Work closely with new teaching staff			✓	

**What worked & what didn't**

time-on-task self reg monitoring peer

1. Mastering Physics	✓	✓	✓	?
2. Face to face small group tutorials	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Mindset messages	✓	✓		
4. Specifically designed sessions	?	✓	✓	✓
5. Refer to individuals by name			✓	
6. Optional revision sessions	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Regular contact with the class			✓	
8. Personalised "relative" feedback	?		✓	?
9. Start the year well		✓		?
10. Work closely with new teaching staff			✓	

**What the students say**

1. Mastering Physics	✓	?	
2. Face to face small group tutorials	✓	✓	☀
3. Mindset messages	✓	?	
4. Specifically designed sessions	✓	✓	☀
5. Refer to individuals by name	✓	?	
6. Optional revision sessions	✓	✓	
7. Regular contact with the class			
8. Personalised "relative" feedback	✓	✓	☀
9. Start the year well	✓	✓	☀
10. Work closely with new teaching staff			

**Reflection**

Students' self-regulation seems to be the key  
Intervention should work on different levels

No quick fix ... yet

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