



Peer Teaching in a Tropical Crop Production Systems Course to Enhance Student Learning



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Introduction



Peer teaching is a method in which students learn from other students who have more experience and knowledge about a particular subject material. Students take on a teaching role to share their knowledge with other students.

Objective: Describe how peer teaching was incorporated into an undergraduate tropical crop production systems course to supplement lectures and enhance student learning.

Methods

Course Modifications

- Peer teaching replaced some lectures.
- BYOD (Bring Your Own Device).
- Flipped classroom approach.
- Small group discussion.
- Graduate student guest lecturers.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

Mobile devices enabled the reviewing of videos and resource materials in class, which supported discussion.

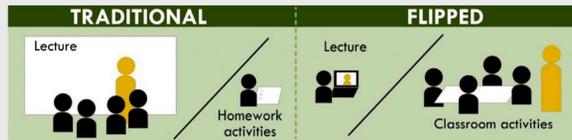
Students were able to search the Internet for additional information, improving searching skills.

Results

Flipped Classroom Approach

Number of lectures were reduced.

Students viewed YouTube videos, websites; read handouts, popular works publications, and scientific articles outside of class.



Small Group Discussions

Students formed into groups of 2-4 students.

Each student could contribute to the discussion, thus promoting peer-to-peer teaching and sharing of personal experiences.



Results

Graduate Student Guest Lectures

Graduate students in the TPSS Dept. and our college guest lectured.

Topics included their research, an agricultural job, tour of their experiments, foreign agriculture experience, an agriculture or sustainability project, family farm or nursery business.



Benefits

- Students felt more comfortable and open when interacting with peers.
- Students received more individualized learning as they learned from each other in smaller groups.
- Graduate students reinforced their own learning.

Conclusion

Peer teaching provides a structure for sharing knowledge, promoting active learning, and enhancing student learning and teaching.

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