Promoting engagement with primary psychological literature

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The challenges

• Insufficient understanding of the nature of the discipline
  >>> engagement with primary research
• Insufficient appreciation of the broader meaning of research
  >>> progressively integrative understanding of research
• Negative focus on the limitations of research
  >>> An appreciation of the research and its contributions
• Insufficient ability to communicate about research
  >>> Learning through social exchange
The concept

Progressively integrative understanding of research

- Initial response & brainstorming
- Engagement
- Detailed review
- Fine-grained analysis
- Broader assessment of contributions
- Appreciation

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Inspiring achievement
The course

3rd-year subject on “Social Justice”:

- weekly lectures and background readings
- weekly tutorials
- online interactions
- assignments

Reading

Initial response & brainstorming

Engagement

Detailed review

Fine-grained analysis

Appreciation

Broader assessment of contributions
The course

3rd-year subject on “Social Justice”:
- weekly lectures
- weekly tutorials
- online interactions
- blogs
- reading
- assignments

Comment or question posted online in week prior to lecture/tutorial

Initial response & brainstorming
Engagement
Fine-grained analysis
Appreciation
Broader assessment of contributions
The course

3rd-year subject on “Social Justice”:
- weekly lectures and background readings
- weekly tutorials
- assignments
- online interactions
  - encourage reading
  - stimulate engagement
  - share ideas
- blogs
  - Initial response & brainstorming
  - engagement
- fine-grained analysis
- appreciation
- Broader assessment of contributions

reading
weekly lectures and background readings

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inspiring achievement
The course

3rd-year subject on “Social Justice”:

weekly lectures and background readings

weekly tutorials

oral presentation

Powerpoint presentation in tutorial class: summary, critique, discussion

assignments

Broader assessment of contributions

appreciation

online interactions

blogs

reading

Initial response & brainstorming

engagement

weekly lectures and background readings

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inspiring achievement
The course

3rd-year subject on “Social Justice”:

- weekly lectures and background readings
- weekly tutorials
- online interactions
- blogs

oral presentation

- train detailed analysis/evaluation
- train communication
- engage in discussion

assignments

Broader assessment of contributions

appreciation

readings

Initial response & brainstorming

engagement

weekly lectures and background readings
The course

3rd-year subject on “Social Justice”:
- weekly lectures and background readings
- weekly tutorials
- online interactions
- blogs
- oral presentation
- assignments

500-word evaluation of the research, focussing on the broader meaning

reading
weekly lectures and background readings

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inspiring achievement
The course

3rd-year subject on “Social Justice”:

- weekly lectures and background readings
- online interactions
- blogs
- oral presentation
- weekly tutorials
- assignments

- encourage integrative learning (blogs, tutes, lectures, readings)
- train broader focus

evaluation of significance
fine-grained analysis
Detailed review
initial response & brainstorming
engagement
weekly lectures and background readings

reading
The course

3rd-year subject on “Social Justice”:

- weekly lectures and background readings
- weekly tutorials
- online interactions
- blogs
- oral presentation
- assignments

2000-word “introduction” of a research article, outlining a novel research question

Broader assessment of contributions

appreciation

research outline
The course

3rd-year subject on “Social Justice”:
- weekly lectures and background readings
- online interactions
- blogs
- oral presentation
- weekly tutorials
- assignments
  - evaluation of significance
  - detailed review
  - Broader assessment of contributions
  - appreciation
  - research outline
- train analysis of caveats
- train conceptual analysis
  (leading back to production of research)
- reading
The conclusions

The outcomes are (I believe)

• a better understanding of social psychology,
• a better reception, assessment and appreciation of primary research,
• a better ability of communicating about social psychological theories and research.
The conclusions

Student feedback:

“The material covered in this topic was interesting and very relevant to the society in which we live. It pushed us to think critically about situations relevant to our world and to chip away at the surface to uncover the psychological mechanisms at work. I really appreciated the different pedagogies that were used, especially the student initiated learning and peer teaching situations. The different assessment structure was refreshing and valued individual student learning styles and abilities. Excellent feedback was provided so that students can learn ways to improve or capitalise on what they do well! Overall, this was an excellent topic!” (2009)

“I enjoyed the deeper level of thinking in this topic, the analysis of real research and the opportunity to discuss social issues.” (2010)
The clapping

Thank you!

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