A ROAD MAP FOR ONLINE COURSE DEVELOPMENT IN TEACHING PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMICS AT A TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
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Introduction

➢ An online course design that blends current events in the economy into engaging assignments, enhances the quality and practicality of learning principles of economics at a technical college where economics is often viewed as a side or less relevant course.

Objectives

▪ Promote creative thinking and active class participation (Sousa, 2006; Freeman et al., 2014)

▪ Increase independent and peer-to-peer deep learning (Biggs, 2007)

▪ Emphasize application of economic principles in students’ everyday lives and their professional fields

Discussion Method

Assessments Design

▪ Opportunity costs
▪ Competition
▪ Barriers to International Trade
▪ Shortages
▪ Consumer Prices

Workers vs Machines Discussion Essay

Supply Chains & Globalization Discussion Essay

Infrastructure Deal, Build Back Better Act & FED Discussion Essay

Tech Oligopolies Discussion Essay

Policy Brief Paper

- Automation
- Income Inequality
- Minimum Wage
- Labor and Capital Market

- Innovation
- Market Power
- Economies of Scale
- Game Theory

- Economic Growth
- Unemployment
- Money Supply and Interest Rates
- Public Debt

Four Discussion Essays to apply economic concepts/theories on contemporary issues related to technology. Students randomly split into groups to answer questions by assigned discussion leader and comment on classmates’ essays in order to reach a potential solution to an economic problem.

Policy Brief Paper as a Final Assignment to make connections between four discussion themes based on an assigned article and further individual exploration

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Log Homework Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Assignments</td>
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<td>R-squared</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

= Pros: Effective application of economic concepts in various technical fields

= Cons: Demanding for instructors to grade when classes are large

Conclusions

Discussion essays improve students’ interest in the subject and have a positive impact on their overall homework tests score when controlled for gender and major.