

## CIRCULAR 1505-2020

### TEACHING METHODS DURING ONLINE CLASSES

TO: ALL TEACHING FACULTY – FULL TIME AND PART TIME  
ALL STUDENTS – FULL TIME AND PART TIME

In this time of unprecedented global disruption, AMITY (Mauritius), like all other institutions worldwide, has resorted to an online mode of operation and of teaching. This method, inherently different from an Open and Distance Learning model, must be new to very many of us and we have given all our valued stakeholders some time to get adjusted to it.

After some weeks of lectures in this online mode, we have now received feedback on the process by students. Equally, we have received feedback from lecturers, and here too, there is an urgent need for an improvement in students' behavior and attitude towards their education. I share a glimpse of these with you, and will request you to make the necessary adjustment. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all that online classes are normal teaching lecturing hours, and all students are expected to dedicate the same focus, attention and seriousness to the online class as they would have had, in a face to face situation.

Some of the most **prominent students' feedback** received are:

1. Not enough interaction;
2. Lecturers speak on and on;
3. No powerpoint used or shared; and
4. Lectures not happening over the agreed period of time.

Some of the most **recurrent lecturers' feedback** are:

1. Not enough interaction;
2. Students unwilling to participate in class;
3. some students log onto the system, switch off their video and microphone and then go do their own activities; and
4. Students' pretend malfunctioning microphone or low bandwidth for video calls so as not to participate in class. Both video and mic are however in perfect working condition when they have to act as pests and ask inappropriate questions or for other classes;
5. In few cases, students were discussing with another faculty member at the same time as the lecture video was on; others were exercising and others still lying down comfortably in their bed half naked.

In view of this, I am now inviting all lecturers to adopt, as far as possible, the "**Flipped classroom model**". You will be aware that research have been carried out over several years on best pedagogical means to improve students' learning, while making classroom interaction as interactive and as effective as possible. These research yielded the flipped classroom model.

Flipped classroom model can best be understood by real life explanation and so, instead of presenting long research data to you, please find below some links to videos and scholarly articles of this method, with several other online links and resources available freely for you to pursue your discovery, or re-discovery, of the flipped classroom model.

All correspondences are to be addressed to the Director and Vice-Chancellor, AMITY (Mauritius)

### The flipped classroom model

1. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdKzSq\\_t8k8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdKzSq_t8k8)
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BClxikOq73Q>
3. [https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/documents/academic-practice/RoehlReddy%20%20SHannon%20\(2013\)%20The%20flipped%20classroom%20as%20a%20way%20of%20engaging%20the%20Millennial%20through%20active%20learning%20strategies.pdf](https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/documents/academic-practice/RoehlReddy%20%20SHannon%20(2013)%20The%20flipped%20classroom%20as%20a%20way%20of%20engaging%20the%20Millennial%20through%20active%20learning%20strategies.pdf)
4. <http://eddatax.fed.cuhk.edu.hk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Looking-at-the-Impact-of-the-Flipped-Classroom-2013.pdf>

Consequently, as from the coming week of Monday 18 May 2020, I will request **all lecturers** to:

1. Send the learning materials (reading, videos, real scenario, etc) well in advance to their students;
2. Spend the first 30 minutes of lectures to clear doubts about the theory aspects of the reading materials and theory of the topic of the day;
3. Spend the rest of the time discussing the application of the theory with practical examples and class interaction sessions;
4. Each explanation of the application can be done over few slides, after which lecturers should consider interaction sessions, with Q&A;
5. Each lecture to be video recorded and same will be uploaded in a repository to be provided by AMITY (Mauritius);
6. Each lecturer to invite all students to have their **video on and mic off** for the lecture, except for interaction sessions;
7. Attendance of both lecturers and students to lectures will be on the basis of presence in the video recordings;
8. Lecturers will be invited to take regular and random snapshots of their screens at various points of the lecture, as further evidence of students' attendance.

Moreover, again as from the coming week of Monday 18 May 2020, we expect **all students** to:

1. Spend time reading, viewing online materials and preparing the theory in advance of the lectures;
2. Come to the online lectures with any doubts of the theory. As far as possible, lecturers will be invited to only clear doubts on the theory aspects from students who have visibly read and prepared the topic of the day.
3. Participate fully in the class discussions;
4. Collaborate fully with the lecturer to make the learning experience an enjoyable one;
5. Each lecture to be video recorded and same will be uploaded on a link to be provided by AMITY (Mauritius);
6. Each student **must** have their **video on and mic off** for the whole duration of the lecture, except for interaction sessions;
7. Any student with his/her video off will be marked as absent for the session, unless the lecturer certifies that the student had a genuine problem and was otherwise interacting fully in class;
8. Attendance of both lecturers and students to lectures will be on the basis of presence in the video recordings;
9. Attendance with a view to being eventually eligible to sit for exams will be on the basis of online attendance.

AMITY (Mauritius) looks forward to your continued effort to ensure adequate learning and knowledge sharing.

**The only way on earth to multiply happiness is to divide it: and so too with knowledge...**

Sincerely,

Prof Kiran Bhujun C.Eng MIEI FIEM M.ASCE RPEM MPMI PMP  
Director and Vice-Chancellor

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