Developments in Economics Education Conference 2023

## The effect of a flipped classroom where students work on exercises in groups during class time

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## What is a flipped classroom?

## Before class (outside of class time)

## During class

After class (outside of class time)

## Flipped

 classroom
## Watch video lectures Review the lecture, work on exercises, and other activities with classmates <br> 

## Traditional lecture



Review the lecture and work on exercises

## Why is a flipped classroom supposed to be effective?

## Before class (outside of class time) <br> During class

After class (outside of class time)

## Watch video lectures

## Flipped

classroom Flexibility
Students can take video lectures at any time they like at their own pace.

## Traditional lecture



Review the lecture and work on exercises

## Related Studies

## No randomized controlled study

for large-sized classes

| Study | Course | Treatment \# of sections, | Control <br> $\mathrm{n}=\#$ of obs. | Learning outcomes | Class activities | RCT? | Positive effect? |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Calimeris \& Sauer (2015) | principles of microeconomics | 1, $\mathrm{n}=31$ | 1, $\mathrm{n}=35$ | midterm, final exam | experiments, discussing news articles \& video clips | partially yes | mixed |
| Caviglia-Harris (2016) | principles of microeconomics | 2, $n=50$ (full flip) <br> 2, $n=55$ (partial flip) | $2, n=58$ | final exam, common questions | in-class exercises \& games, clicker questions | no | yes |
| Balaban et al. (2016) | principles of economics | 1, $\mathrm{n}=367$ | 1, $\mathrm{n}=362$ | final exam | problem solving | no | yes |
| Wozny et al. (2018) | introduction to econometrics | 7 (5 lessons) $\mathrm{n}=137$ in total | $\begin{aligned} & 7 \text { (5 lessons) } \\ & n=137 \text { in total } \end{aligned}$ | quizzes, midterm, final exam | independent \& group work on exercises, mini lectures | partially yes | mixed |
| Lombardini et al. (2018) | principles of microeconomics | 1, $n=146$ (partial flip) <br> 1, $n=117$ (full flip) | 1, $\mathrm{n}=157$ | exams, students' evaluation, likelihood of $D, F$, and withdraw | pair and group activities, exercises and discussions | no | mixed |
| Ficano (2019) | introductory microeconomics | $3, n=58$ | $3, n=72$ | exams | work on application questions in groups | no | no |
| Yamarik (2019) | international economics | 2, n=63 | $2, \mathrm{n}=59$ | midterm, final exam, student perceptions | Individual \& group exercises, group experiments | no | no |
| Craft \& Linask (2020) | principles of microeconomics | 6, $\mathrm{n}=117$ | $6, \mathrm{n}=122$ | course grade, final exam, TUCE posttest | solving problems, classroom experiments, discussion | partially yes | mixed |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Setren et al. } \\ & (2021) \end{aligned}$ | introduction to calculus, principles of economics | 26, $n=435$ (math) <br> $14, n=226$ (econ) | $\begin{aligned} & 25, n=417 \text { (math) } \\ & 15, n=250 \text { (econ) } \end{aligned}$ | quizzes, final exam | problem set | yes | mixed |

## The objectives of our study

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Examine the effect of flipped classrooms on student learning outcomes under a randomized controlled design in large-sized classes.


## Introduction to Economics course in spring 2022

- First-year undergrad students were assigned randomly to the sections by the admin office.
- The experiment was conducted on the 7 lessons in 2 sections (C and D) of the course.
- The same instructor has taught Section C and D.



## Class format



## Class format and assignments



## Panel data of 338 students $\times 7$ lessons

## Student learning outcomes

- Quiz scores (short-term learning outcomes)
- Final exam scores (longterm learning outcomes)
- 18 questions in total, each question related to one of the seven lessons


## Student learning engagements

- Questions about the lecture
$\square$ Submitted or not
$\square$ Question length (the number of characters)
- The scores of exercise problems
- Completion rate of watching videos
- attendance


## The effect of flipped classrooms on learning outcomes

The averages of \% of correct answers in the quizzes


The averages of \% of correct answers in the final exam
\%20 \%

$$
100
$$



$$
0
$$

$\square$ Traditional
12

## The effect of flipped classrooms on learning outcomes

|  | Quiz scores (Standardized for each lesson) |  |  |  | Final exam scores <br> (Standardized for |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| each lesson) |  |  |  |  |  |

The efi
Positive effect of the flipped classrooms on the quiz scores

No effect of the flipped classrooms on the final exam scores

| Pooled OLS | Quiz scores (Standardized for each lesson) |  |  |  | Final exam scores (Standardized for each lesson) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | All lessons | All lessons | Except lesson1 | Except lesson 1 |  |  |
| Flipped | $0.1802 * * *$ (0.0385) | $\begin{aligned} & -0.4214^{*} \\ & (0.2503) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.2862 * * * \\ (0.0408) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & -0.4985^{*} \\ & (0.2786) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.0193 \\ (0.0342) \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 0.1672 $(0.2125)$ |
| Standardized math placement test score | $\begin{gathered} 0.1182^{* * *} \\ (0.0287) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.1224^{* * *} \\ (0.0286) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.1325^{* * *} \\ (0.0300) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.1384^{* * *} \\ (0.0292) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.0840^{* *} \\ (0.0340) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.0949 * * * \\ (0.0318) \end{gathered}$ |
| Standardized English placement test score | $0.1623 * * * ~ O ~$$(0.0358)$ Positive attitude toward group learning decreases the quiz), |  |  |  |  |  |
| Female | $\begin{gathered} -0.0329 \\ (0.0655) \end{gathered}$ | scores but strengthens the effect of the flipped classrooms. <br> (0.0699) <br> (U.0664) <br> (0.0642) |  |  |  |  |
| Attitude toward group learning (Likert scale) |  | $\begin{gathered} 0.1861^{* * *} \\ (0.0576) \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} 0.2289 * * * \\ (0.0657) \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} -0.1096 * * \\ (0.0464) \end{gathered}$ |
| Attitude toward group learning * Flipped |  | $\begin{gathered} 0.1618^{* * *} \\ (0.0684) \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} 0.2117 * * * \\ (0.0757) \end{gathered}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} -0.0387 \\ (0.0569) \end{gathered}$ |
| Observations | 1857 | 1818 | 1584 | 1549 | 2072 | 2037 |
| $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ | 0.0689 | 0.0758 | 0.0771 | 0.0878 | 0.0479 | 0.0561 |

## Causal mediation analysis

Examine the effect of the flipped classrooms on learning outcomes through learning engagements


## Causal mediation analysis: results

## Examine the effect of the flipped classrooms on learning outcomes

 through learning engagements

## Two-mediator mediation analysis



## Why is a flipped classroom supposed to be effective?

## Before class (outside of class time) <br> During class

## After class (outside of class time)

Watch video lectures

## Flipped

classroom Flexibility
Students can take video lectures at any time they like at their own pace.

Traditional lecture

The mediation effect
through watching videos

Have a lecture with classmates


Review the lecture and work on exercises

## Summary of the findings



Positive effect of the flipped classroom on quiz scores (short-term learning outcome) about 0.18 to 0.29 standard deviation


No significant effect of the flipped classroom on exam scores (long-term learning outcome)


Of the total effect of flipped classrooms, $70 \%$ is mediated through watching videos, and the remaining $30 \%$ is the direct effect, interpreted as the effect of activities during class.

## Our experiment in 2021 : original design



## Our experiment in 2021 : what was done

Due to the COVID-19, classes were held online from mid-April to mid-June.


## The effect of in-person and online flipped classroom in 2021 and 2022

## In person (2021)

Traditional lecture


Flipped classroom Freely formed groups


## Online (2021)

Traditional lecture


Flipped classroom

In person (2022)
Traditional lecture


Positive effect of in-person flipped classroom

Flipped classroom

Randomly assigned groups


## Summary of the findings

1


- Positive effect of the flipped classroom on quiz scores (short-term learning outcome) about 0.16 to 0.29 standard deviation
- No significant effect of the flipped classroom on exam scores (longterm learning outcome)
- Randomly assigned groups can be a successful ingredient for flipped classrooms.


## Supplementary materials

## Introduction to Economics course in spring 2022



## Experiment on the 7 lessons of "Introduction to Economics"

| Lesson | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |  | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Date | 11 | 18 | 25 | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
|  | Apr. | Apr. | Apr. | May | May | May | May | May |



## Introduction to Economics course in spring 2022

First-year undergrad students were assigned randomly to the sections by the admin office.


## Contents of the course

Based on Mankiw's ten principles of economics
Lesson 1 Tradeoffs
Lesson 2 Cost, rational choice, incentives
Lesson 3 Marginal principle, profit maximization
Lesson 4 Gains from trade
Lesson 5 Efficiency of a market economy, market failure

## Lesson 6 GDP

Lesson 7 Price levels, inflation and unemployment

## Class format and assignments



Before class
Flipped classroom

- Video lecture
- Submit a question about the lecture
- Readings


## During class

- Work on exercises by randomly assigned groups
- Take a quiz in the last 10 minutes

After class
Next class

Traditional • Readings lecture

- Live lecture in the classroom
- Work on exercises by each and submit the answers
- Submit a question about the lecture
- Take a quiz in the first 10 minutes

Next class

## Grading

Final exam 30\%

## quizzes

40\%

Question about Exerthe lecture cises 20\% 10\%

## Regression using panel data of 338 students $\times 7$ lessons

Leaning outcome $_{i j}=\alpha+\beta$ Flipped $_{i j}$
$+\sum_{k} \gamma_{k}$ Student characteristics $_{k i}$
$+\sum_{j} \theta_{j}$ Lesson dummies $_{j}+\varepsilon_{i j}$
$i$ for students and $j$ for lessons

## Characteristics of students

- English placement test score
- Math placement test score
- Gender


## Survey about learning

- Self-regulated learning strategies
- Attitude toward group learning
- Eagerness to learn


## Survey about learning

Before
the
experiment

After traditional lectures

## After <br> flipped classrooms



## Survey about learning

## Self-regulated learning strategies ( 24 questions)

Behavioral strategies (6 questions)

- I plan ahead.
- ...

Emotional strategies (4 questions)

- I try not to think too much about how bad things could happen.
- ...

Cognitive strategies (8 questions)

- I think about what I needed to understand in class.
- ...

Motivational strategies (6 questions)

- I am motivated to take classes even if I am not interested.
- ...


## Attitude toward group learning (8 questions)

- A team makes better decisions than one person.
- It's fun to work with classmates.
- Listen carefully to others.


## Summary statistics: Sections and student characteristics

| Section | \# of students consented/\# of students |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| C | 180/185 |  |  |  |  |  |
| D | 158/179 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Section | mean | Std. dev | min | max | \# of obs. |
| Gender ( male=0, female=1) | C | 0.21 | 0.41 | 0 | 1 | 180 |
|  | D | 0.25 | 0.43 | 0 | 1 | 158 |
| Math placement test scores (out of 42 points) | C | 24.39 | 6.59 | 10 | 39 | 169 |
|  | D | 23.50 | 6.89 | 5 | 39 | 150 |
| English placement test scores (out of 1000 points) | C | 542.16 | 109.33 | 76 | 735 | 179 |
|  | D | 539.46 | 100.85 | 117 | 762 | 158 |

## The effect of flipped classrooms on learning outcomes: Quiz scores

Dependent variable: standardized quiz score

## The effect of flipped classroor Positive effect of the flipped classrooms Quiz scores on the quiz scores on average

## Dependent variable: standardized quiz score

## Pooled OLS

Flipped
Standardized math placement test score
Standardized English placement test score
Female

Attitude toward group learning Attitude toward group learning * Flipped Behavioral learning strategies Behavioral learning strategies * Flipped Cognitive learning strategies
(2) All lessons
(3) Excent lesson 1 (4) Except lesson 1

. $286(.041)^{* * *}-.297(.323)$
$.180(.038)^{* * *}$
$.118(.029)^{* * *}$
$.162(.036)^{* * *}$
$-.033(.065)-.070(064)-.033(.070)$
-. 178 (.063)
242 (.080)
Positive attitude toward group learning lowers the scores but strengthens the effect of the flipped classrooms.


## The effect of flipped classrooms on learning outcomes: Final exam scores

| Pooled OLS | Dependent variable: standardized final exam score <br> $(1)$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| $(2)$ |  |  |
| Flipped | $.019(.034)$ | $.201(.257)$ |
| Standardized math placement test score | $.084(.034)^{* *}$ | $.092(.032)^{* * *}$ |
| Standardized English placement test score | $.176(.040)^{* * *}$ | $.168(.038)^{* * *}$ |
| Female | $.033(.066)$ | $.051(.064)$ |
| Attitude toward group learning |  | $-.062(.060)$ |
| Attitude toward group learning * Flipped | $-.042(.061)$ |  |
| Behavioral learning strategies | $-.123(.053)^{* *}$ |  |
| Behavioral learning strategies * Flipped | $.091(.057)$ |  |
| Cognitive learning strategies |  | $.014(.071)$ |
| Cognitive learning strategies * Flipped | $-.036(.070)$ |  |
| Emotional learning strategies | $-.052(.034)$ |  |
| Emotional learning strategies * Flipped |  | $-.011(.038)$ |
| Motivational learning strategies |  | $.049(.055)$ |
| Motivational learning strategies * Flipped |  | $-.049(.051)$ |
| Observations |  | 2,030 |
| $R^{2}$ |  | 0.072 |

## The effect of flipped classrooms on learning outcomes: Final exam scores

| Pooled OLS | Dependent variable: standard (1) | d final exam score (2) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Flipped | . 019 (.034) | . 201 (.257) |
| Standardized math placement test score | . 084 (.034) ** | .092 (.032) *** |
| Standardized English placement test score | . 176 (.040) *** | . 168 (.038) *** |
| Female | . 033 (.066) | . 051 (.064) |
| Attitude toward group learning | No significant effect | -. 062 (.060) |
| Attitude toward group learning * Flipped | No significant effe | -. 042 (.061) |
| Behavioral learning strategies | the flipped classrooms on | -. $123(.053)^{* *}$ |
| Behavioral learning strategies * Flipped | the final exam scores | . 091 (.057) |
| Cognitive learning strategies |  | . 014 (.071) |
| Cognitive learning strategies * Flipped |  | -. 036 (.070) |
| Emotional learning strategies |  | -. 052 (.034) |
| Emotional learning strategies * Flipped |  | -. 011 (.038) |
| Motivational learning strategies |  | . 049 (.055) |
| Motivational learning strategies * Flipped |  | -. 049 (.051) |
| Observations | 2072 | 2,030 |
| $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ | 0.0479 | 0.0616 |

## The effect of flipped classrooms on learning engagements

| Positive effects on <br> learning engagements <br> on average. | Question <br> submission <br> (submitted=1) | Question <br> length | The scores of <br> exercise <br> problems <br> $(0,1$, or 2) | Attendance <br> (attended=1) | Completion <br> rate of <br> watching <br> videos(\%) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | probit | pooled OLS | ordered probit | probit | pooled OLS |

## Student satisfaction

| Student satisfactionPooled OLS |  |  | Less satisfied with the Flipped classrooms than the traditional lectures |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Flipped | $\begin{gathered} -0.2973^{* * *} \\ (0.0643) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -1.7389 * * * \\ (0.4479) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Standardized math placement test score | $\begin{gathered} 0.0762 \\ (0.0458) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.0476 \\ (0.0420) \end{gathered}$ | The students with highly positive attitude |
| Standardized English placement test score | $\begin{gathered} 0.0046 \\ (0.0398) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.0044 \\ (0.0380) \end{gathered}$ | toward group learning are satisfied with |
| Female | $\begin{gathered} 0.0497 \\ (0.0978) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.0081 \\ (0.0900) \end{gathered}$ | the flipped classrooms but the other students are not. |
| Attitude toward group learning |  | $\begin{aligned} & 0.1861^{* *} \\ & (0.0731) \end{aligned}$ |  |
| Attitude toward group learning * Flipped |  | $\begin{gathered} 0.3899 * * * \\ (0.1105) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Period-2 dummy | $\begin{aligned} & -0.1280^{*} \\ & (0.0646) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} -.1469^{* *} \\ (0.0619) \end{gathered}$ |  |
| Observations | 609 | 596 |  |
| $\mathrm{R}^{2}$ | 0.0405 | 0.1390 |  |

## Student satisfaction



## Causal mediation analysis

Leaning engagement ${ }_{i j}$
$=\alpha_{2}+\beta_{2}$ Flipped $_{i j}+\sum_{k} \gamma_{k}$ Student characteristics $_{k i}+\sum_{j} \theta_{j}$ Lesson dummies $_{j}+\varepsilon_{2 i j}$
Leaning outcome ${ }_{i j}$
$=\alpha_{3}+\beta_{3}$ Flipped $_{i j}+\delta$ Learning engagement $_{i j}+\sum_{k} \gamma_{k}$ Student characteristics $_{k i}+\sum_{j} \theta_{j}$ Lesson dummies $_{j}$


Learning engagements
(question submission, watching videos)

Mediation effect
$\beta_{2} \delta$

## Causal mediation analysis: results



## Two-mediator mediation analysis



## Summary statistics: learning outcomes

|  |  | Mean | Std. dev. | Min | Max | \# of obs. |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Quiz scores | Flipped | 3.25 | 1.27 | 0 | 5 | 1001 |
|  | Traditional | 3.04 | 1.39 | 0 | 5 | 966 |
|  | Flipped | 1.41 | 0.99 | 0 | 3 | 1082 |
|  | Traditional | 1.39 | 0.95 | 0 | 3 | 1102 |

## Summary statistics: learning engagements

|  |  | Mean | Std. dev. | Min | Max | \# of obs. |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| The scores of exercise | Flipped | 1.72 | 0.70 | 0 | 2 | 1172 |
| problems | Traditional | 1.59 | 0.81 | 0 | 2 | 1194 |
| Question submission | Flipped | 0.78 | 0.42 | 0 | 1 | 1172 |
| (submitted=1, not=0) | Traditional | 0.76 | 0.43 | 0 | 1 | 1194 |
|  | Flipped | 61.84 | 58.95 | 0 | 381 | 1172 |
| Question length | Traditional | 51.98 | 55.11 | 0 | 374 | 1194 |
| Attendance | Flipped | 0.85 | 0.35 | 0 | 1 | 1172 |
| (Attended=1, not=0) | Traditional | 0.81 | 0.39 | 0 | 1 | 1194 |


|  |  | \% of students who ever watched videos | Completion rate of watching videos among the students who ever watched videos(\%) |  |  |  | \# of obs. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Mean | Std. dev. | Min | Max |  |
| Watching videos | Flipped | 58.45 | 79.12 | 39.98 | 0.10 | 243.40 | 685 |
| before taking quizzes | Traditional | 4.77 | 77.45 | 43.05 | 0.08 | 137.29 | 57 |

## Summary statistics: Survey before the experiment

|  |  | Section | Mean | Std. dev. | Min | Max | \# of obs. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Attitude toward group learning |  | C | 3.77 | 0.64 | 1.88 | 5.00 | 175 |
|  |  | D | 3.69 | 0.74 | 1.50 | 5.00 | 155 |
| Eagerness to learn |  | C | 3.50 | 0.61 | 1.00 | 4.00 | 170 |
|  |  | D | 3.60 | 0.56 | 2.00 | 4.00 | 149 |
| Self- <br> regulated <br> learning <br> strategies | Behavioral | C | 3.26 | 0.89 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 176 |
|  |  | D | 3.14 | 0.89 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 155 |
|  | Cognitive | C | 3.59 | 0.67 | 1.75 | 5.00 | 175 |
|  |  | D | 3.38 | 0.67 | 1.38 | 5.00 | 154 |
|  | Emotional | C | 3.02 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 176 |
|  |  | D | 2.97 | 1.09 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 155 |
|  | Motivational | C | 3.36 | 0.81 | 1.17 | 5.00 | 175 |
|  |  | D | 3.12 | 0.85 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 155 |

## Summary statistics: Survey after flipped classrooms and after traditional lectures

|  |  |  | Mean | Std. dev. | Min | Max | \# of obs. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Satisfaction |  | Flipped | 3.81 | 1.02 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 324 |
|  |  | Traditional | 4.15 | 0.80 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 322 |
| Attitude toward group learning |  | Flipped | 3.79 | 0.69 | 1.25 | 5.00 | 321 |
|  |  | Traditional | 3.80 | 0.70 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 322 |
| Eagerness to learn |  | Flipped | 3.24 | 0.63 | 1.00 | 4.00 | 324 |
|  |  | Traditional | 3.27 | 0.66 | 1.00 | 4.00 | 324 |
| Self- <br> regulated <br> learning <br> strategies | Behavioral | Flipped | 3.32 | 0.86 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 322 |
|  |  | Traditional | 3.39 | 0.92 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 321 |
|  | Cognitive | Flipped | 3.56 | 0.68 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 323 |
|  |  | Traditional | 3.60 | 0.69 | 1.25 | 5.00 | 323 |
|  | Emotional | Flipped | 3.29 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 321 |
|  |  | Traditional | 3.42 | 0.93 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 323 |
|  | Motivationa | Flipped | 3.45 | 0.79 | 1.00 | 5.00 | 320 |
|  |  | Traditional | 3.67 | 0.76 | 1.67 | 5.00 | 323 |

