Blending Architecture, Technology and Society

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The Course

• History 375; Architecture, Technology and Society, 1750-present
  – Social & Tech history of modern architecture
  – Visual
• 80-90% Arch Eng seniors. Required.
• 2 sections/year, ~30 students each
• Taught since 2005
The Idea

• Scheduling issues / lab conflicts.
• Field trips / budget issues
• Use technology to enhance the course.
  – Visual
  – Virtual field trips
  – Online material
  – Weekly quizzes
  – Career preparation
The Plan

• Blended course, $\frac{1}{2}$ in person, $\frac{1}{2}$ online
  – Meet once a week instead of twice.
• Push basic lecture content online
  – Video
  – Links
  – Weekly quizzes
• Discussion, evaluation, analysis and synthesis in class.
The Process

• E-fellows grant
  – Summer support
  – Takes a lot of time, energy and effort
• Ed Tech help
  – Re-Conceptualizing
  – Blackboard tech help
The Results

• [Link](https://blackboard.mst.edu)

• CET score from 3.55 to 3.62

• Exact same assignments
  – Better basic understanding of concepts.
  – Same higher level analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills.

• Student Feedback
Lessons Learned

• Make the implicit explicit.
  – If you say it, write it down.
• Organize and plan everything in advance
• Plan in flexibility
• Students will always choose the path of least resistance.
• Computers break. Be ready.
Continuous Improvement

• More explicit learning objectives for each week.
• More assignments online
  – Exams, papers, group projects.
• More use of links, virtual tours.
  – Less reliance on the textbooks
• Use limited class time in best way possible.
Conclusions

• As with anything, easy to do, challenging to do well.
• Use the help available.
• Nothing inherent in a humanities course to keep it from being successful online or blended.
• Have fun!
Questions?

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