Escaping from Exams: Designing Engaging Assessments For Upper Year Students

Speaker:
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Words you think of when you hear “Exam”

Stress  Nervous  Procrastinate

Coffee  Fear  Pass or Fail

All nighters  UGH!  Study

“For F#@* Sake!!”  Cram

Rushing  Nausea  Not enough time

Hand cramps  Brutal

Death, Torture and Doom!  Anxiety  nightmares
Potential Issues with Exams

- Sickness/stress
- Family Issues
- Cheating
- Validity
- Reliability
- Fairness
- Lacks soft skills
- No job preparation
How can we *ditch exams* in your courses?
Brainstorm for Your Course

- Pick a partner at your table
- Each of you pick one course you teach with an exam
- Brainstorm 1 assessment to replace the exam in each person’s course
- Be prepared to share your ideas!
Selected EE Assessments in My Courses

**Negotiations**
- Weekly negotiation exercises
- Real-life negotiation paper

**Executive Coaching**
- Weekly coaching in pairs
- Coaching transcript analysis

**Career Management**
- Mock interviews
- Resume-writing
Selected Benefits for Faculty

- Less Time Lecturing
- Connection with Students
- Higher Attendance
- Higher Course Demand
- Higher Teaching Scores
- Finish Term Earlier
Selected Benefits for Students

- Learning Retention
- Skill Development
- Experience for Resume
- Transition to Workplace
- Increased Topic Interest
- Networking
Selected Student Feedback

“I landed a job offer near the end of the term and your course helped me negotiate a better salary! I'll definitely be recommending it!”

“This course gave us the opportunity to apply our knowledge every class in the form of peer negotiations which was extremely useful.”

-Students from Negotiations 4490, W 2017
Selected Student Feedback

“I really like the fact that professor Lisa doesn't believe in exams. I also prefer to understand material through practical implementation of a theory, rather than trying to memorize as much as I can during preparation for exams. So, thanks to her, I learned a lot of knowledge and understanding of the material. I really hope that in a nearest future more and more courses will implement this idea.”

-Student from Training & Development 3410, SU 2016
Questions?

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