

THE A&H PEDAGOGICAL FORUM

04.22.2020 | 12:30-2:30PM | SESSION 5

NAVIGATING INSTRUCTION IN THE CYBERSPACE: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR? AND HOW CAN WE MAKE IT BETTER?

The A&H Pedagogical Forum offers a space for its faculty (and for TC faculty at large, for that matter) to embrace the complexity of teaching, together taking up questions and issues central to our pedagogical work in the graduate classroom.

Register Here: bit.ly/pedagogicalforum

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://teacherscollege.zoom.us/j/3287721285>

Participants are encouraged to attend as many sessions as their schedules allow. All are welcome, including adjunct instructors.

A Timeline

March 5: Msg from President Bailey and Provost Rowley on academic continuity

- “Given the challenges presented by Covid 19, we are working to make sure that our classroom-based courses are prepared to be offered online if necessary.”

March 6: A&H Initiative of Supporting Faculty Online Teaching

- 3/10: “Using Zoom at TC: A Personal Journey” (Prof. Hal Abeles, Music)
- 3/12: “Online Course Development” (Prof. Richard Jochum, Art Ed)
- 3/23: “Online Group Work” (Dr. Sarah Creider, AL-TESOL)
- 3/30: “Synchronous and asynchronous teaching” (Dr. Erik Voss, AL-TESOL)
- 4/7: “Indulging interactivity” (Dr. Sharon, Chang, BBE)
- A&H Online Teaching Teaching Discussion Forum
- A&H Online Student Learning Discussion Forum

March 23: TC pivoting to online teaching

March 28: A&H Surveys – Program Directors, Faculty, and Students

It's been a month since

Navigating Instruction in the Cyberspace:

What have we learned so far?

How can we make it better?

A&H Pedagogical Forum

- Established in 2018
- Main theme this year
 - Supporting International Students
 - Four sessions
- Session 5: Supporting A&H online teaching



Breakout Room Discussion

What has your experience been like?

It's been a month since

Navigating Instruction in the Cyberspace:

What have we learned so far?

How can we make it better?

The A&H Survey of Students Online Learning Experience

What program are you in?

How many courses are you taking on line right now?

Did you enjoy the classes online? What did you like or not like about it?

Have you encountered any challenges or difficulties in attending the classes online?

What did you wish the instructor had done for the online teaching?

Are you planning on taking classes this summer? If so, in Summer A or Summer B, and how many classes?

The screenshot shows a mobile application interface. At the top, there is a horizontal bar with four colored segments: green, blue, cyan, and dark blue. Below this bar is a white rectangular area containing the survey content. At the top of this white area is a dropdown menu with the word "English" and a downward arrow. The text of the survey is as follows: "Dear Student," followed by "We hope you are holding up well during these turbulent times." Then, "It has been a few weeks since courses at Teachers College have gone online, which has necessitated adjustments both on the part of the instructor and of the student." Next, "In order to assess where we are in terms of your experience and to improve it if it's not going well, we would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to respond to a few questions." Finally, "Thank you in advance for your time and effort. Stay safe and healthy!". At the bottom of the white area, there is a navigation bar with four icons: a left arrow, a right arrow, a share icon (a square with an upward arrow), a book icon, and a copy icon (two overlapping squares).

English

Dear Student,

We hope you are holding up well during these turbulent times.

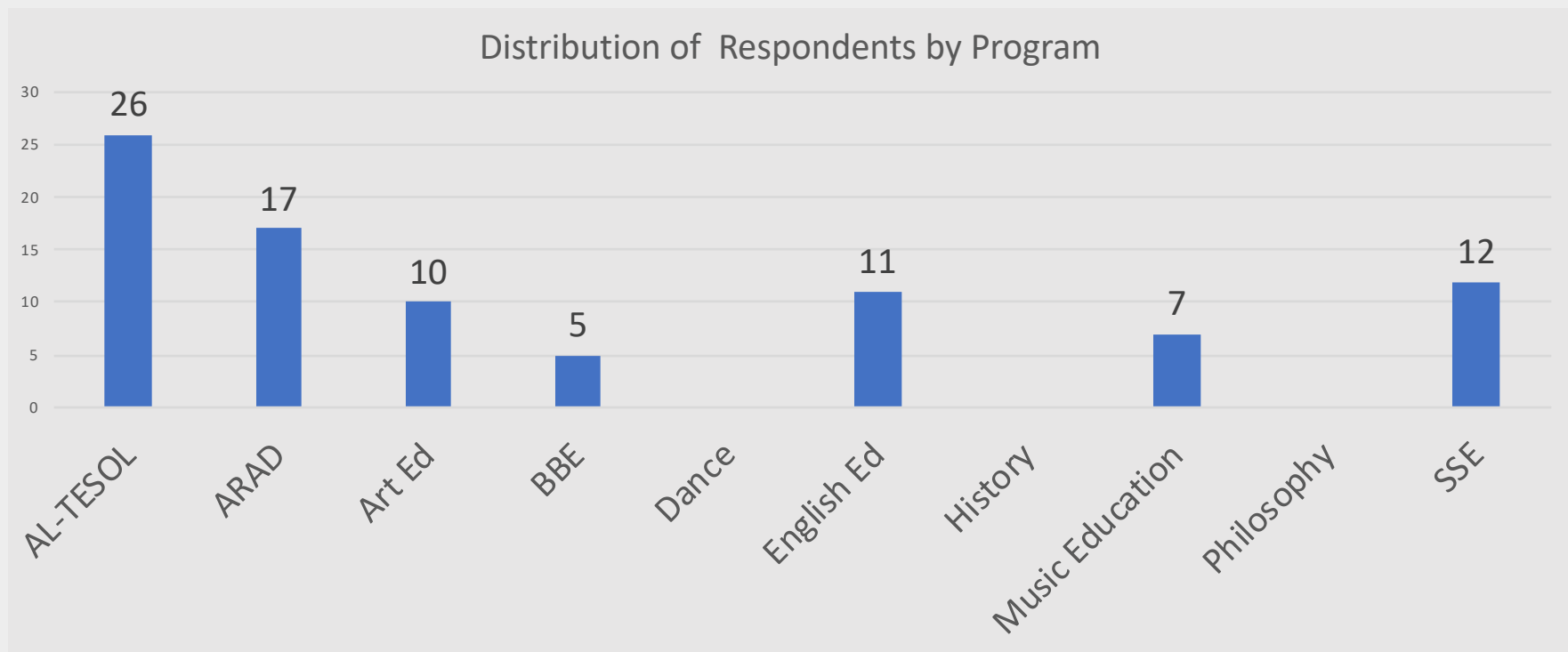
It has been a few weeks since courses at Teachers College have gone online, which has necessitated adjustments both on the part of the instructor and of the student.

In order to assess where we are in terms of your experience and to improve it if it's not going well, we would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to respond to a few questions.

Thank you in advance for your time and effort. Stay safe and healthy!

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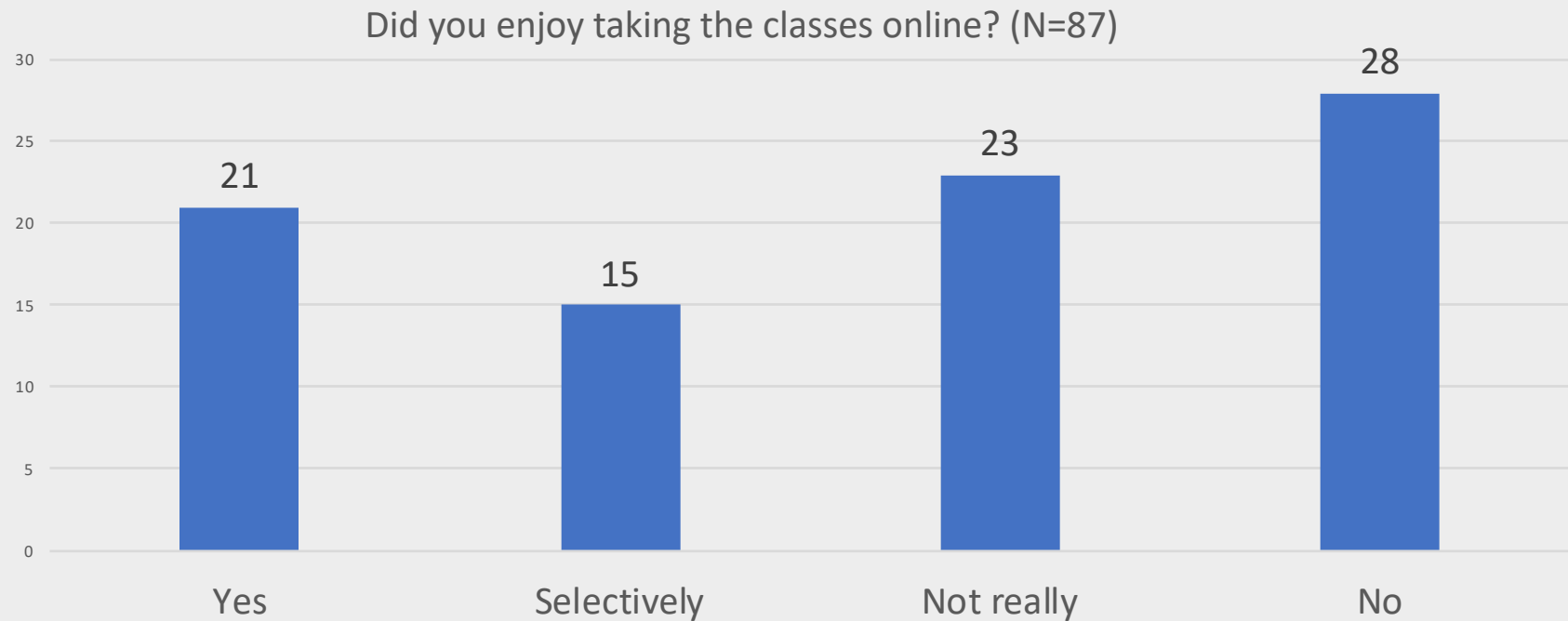
Program distribution of respondents (N=88)



Q2- How many courses are you taking online?

Respondents	84
Course total	243
Average per person	2.89
Range	1-7

Q3-Did you enjoy taking the classes online?



Q3 - Did you enjoy taking the classes online?

"I do and I don't enjoy it.

On one hand, it's nice to not have to go to TC to take these classes. I enjoy the remote part.

On the other hand, the transition to distance learning has really exaggerated the inherent problems with all three courses I'm taking right now: they're poorly taught (in person or online), they're poorly assessed, and their relationship to teaching/pedagogy is extremely unclear and presumably not existent for 2 of my 3 classes.

Right now I'm taking two TESOL/AL courses. Both courses aren't meeting online. For one course, the instructor does an hour-long "Reply All" email chain once a week, and students are expected to ask questions then. Otherwise we read the textbook by ourselves and submit textbook exercises by ourselves. It's essentially a self-study course with an hour-long option of emailing an instructor once a week. I'm shocked that we aren't receiving a partial tuition refund.

My other TESOL/AL course has optional online meetings that I've heard only 2 people attend (the in-person lectures were already wildly unpopular before the transition to online courses). This course has also devolved into reading the textbook by ourselves + doing textbook exercises by ourselves and submitting them online. This course, however, is still keeping its final paper requirement."

• "

Q3 - Did you enjoy taking the classes online? What did you like or not like about it?

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Discussion based classes are fine

Studio classes lack the inspirational interactions and camaraderie of creating art together.

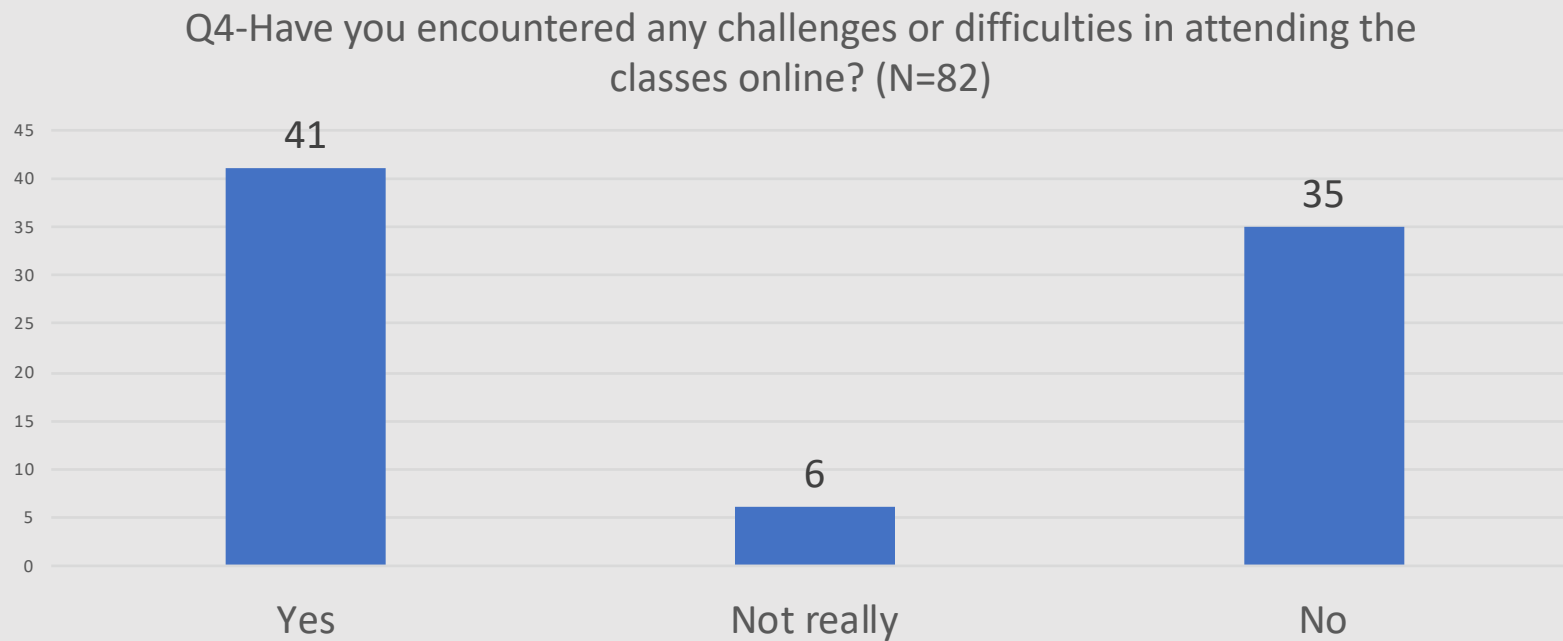
Nope. Classes aren't very good online. The problem is that the professors are trying to do classes like we are all there in person. It's 31 people all in a different screen and 2/3rds have the video turned off and only one person can speak at a time. What they should do just lecture. Instead of having an hour and fifty minute class that would normally have 20/30 minutes of discussion time, just cut out the discussion because you're not going to get everyone to participate on zoom and a class that long on zoom is just not the same as classroom time. It would be fine if the professors realized the differences and just came up with a lecture they gave us on the subject matter and then asked if there are any questions and ended the class early.

No. My course requires hands-on observance of children during play time. This does not work for an online course. Also, I enjoy physical interaction with my classmates.

it's not great. it feels very disorganized with not a lot of thought put into it.

I do not enjoy it because it is difficult to hear and see the professor, depending on internet strength. It is also difficult to speak about topics in timely manner since you have to repeat information if the audio cut out or if you are unsure about who is speaking next if you cannot see everyone. It is also distracting to work from home with family to take care of and current student teaching commitments. It is also difficult to read someone's tone over the internet, so comments could come off rude if they were not meant to be.

Q4- Have you encountered any challenges or difficulties in attending the classes online?



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I have had challenges but that is mainly due to having children during this crisis. Becoming a home-school teacher for them. I have reached out to all my professors and even the president addressed issues with students who are parents. All have been supportive.

My main issue is group assignments or activities. It seems like everyone has scattered and might be on holiday. I do not received answers to my emails sent to my group. I have emailed the professor regarding this matter. She is addressing that.

No, attendance is easy.

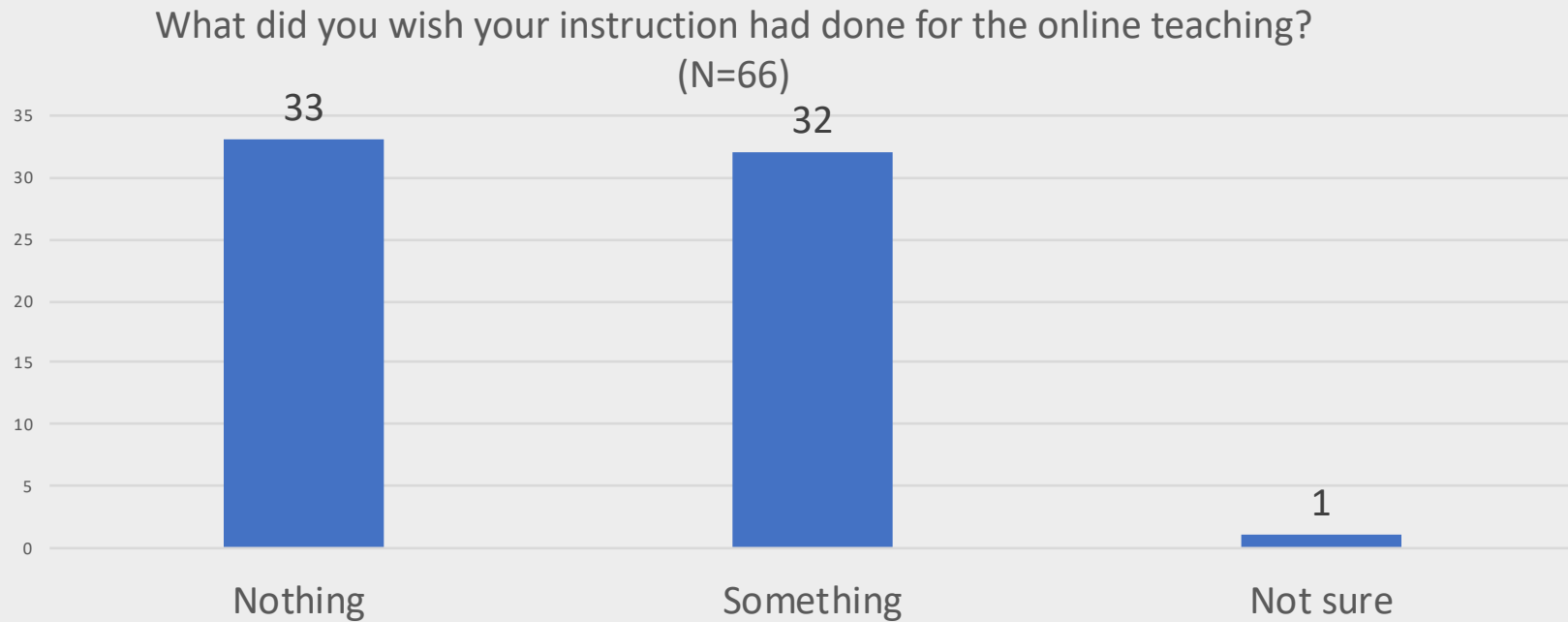
It's 100% been challenging, and my bank account is crying. Like many colleges, I believe it's only fair to give a refund to students for the courses that weren't meant to be on-line courses. Realistically, not every course can be taken online.

I have a (somewhat) weak wifi connection. Luckily I am still able to participate in classes, but I don't think my connection is the most reliable. It also took some time to learn how to use Zoom.

The greatest difficulty is simply the stressors outside of TC, adjusting to life during this global pandemic, taking care of family matters, etc.

So far it's been pretty smooth.

Q5 - What did you wish the instructor had done for the online teaching?



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What did you wish the instructor had done for the online teaching?
I am pleased that my professors either choose to execute live online classes or a combination of live online classes and asynchronous classes.
For the same class above, we do not have any online materials or resources. I wish that we would have access to some of the material that we had covered before the shut down.
Clear ppt for the teaching and recoding.
Can't think of much beyond what they are doing
Be more prepared with a plan for the lecture as done in person
Asynchronous options or different time for the classes.
Assign more small breakout rooms on zoom to encourage small group discussion and participation
Allowed for more time to adjust and attempt to preserve some of the qualities of in person teaching. Most professors have done this and demonstrated extraordinary flexibility.
All my professors have been thorough and efficient. Positive experience



What can be done about the student concerns?

Panel discussion

Q5 - What did you wish the instructor had done for the online teaching?

- “PREPARE. The instructor for my one course that still meets online is clearly prepared. I'm teaching on Zoom myself now and I 100% understand the curveball this has thrown, but I've still risen to the occasion and am delivering lessons of comparable (although reduced) quality of my in-person classes. However, my two TESOL/AL classes seem to have completely given up, and it makes me angry that I'm still expected to pay full tuition for what have devolved into self-study courses. I might as well be taking these classes through the mail.”

- “Reduce the workload. I am taking a studio art class, for instance, and the professor is adding new "research" projects weekly. I also have a project in which I have to communicate with professionals from an arts organization, and presentation expectations are unclear. I feel that this project also places additional burdens upon those arts professionals.”

“One of my professors distributes lecture notes and makes himself available over email for extended virtual office hours, but has, in my opinion, taken the flexibility of the class schedule too far. Now instead of 2 hours of class each week, it feels like a 15-minute note-reading session and a confusing chain of emails to refer back to.”

“Some professors/instructors are more adept at using the online platform than others. It would have been helpful, I think, if all instructors/professors had had more in-depth training on using the online platforms offered through TC.”

“I would love some asynchronous options as I am balancing so many things right now, including being sole provider, homeschooling children, and taking classes. It would be nice to have some flexibility. In all honesty, it would also be helpful to know how to prioritize our work. It has been, so far, impossible to keep the same workload, and I would love some options that recognize these challenges, some choices and/or elimination and/or collective work.”

“I wish there is a better way for us to be more engaged in the class participation during this difficult time. However, I am not sure if the instructor could have done it more effective. Our instructor is always well-prepared for the class participation. This is more relevant to innate restrictions of online teaching.”

“I wish the instructors would adapt the syllabus given the current situation. The classes I'm taking are not for "online learning" per se, so then the syllabus has to change to not only match online learning, but the current health pandemic too.”

“Make and share slides, upload recordings, allow more discussion”

“Make them shorter and more bearable to sit through. Or break up the sessions with some breaktime.”

“I would like them to talk more. I felt hard to be active in group discussion when we were online”

“I wish instructors would still teach us material that they had planned to teach us - though I understand there are limitations with Zoom. This is frustrating but of course this pandemic is a really difficult and unprecedented time and I understand. But I think that my cohort is really getting poorer education than we had anticipated, and it would be helpful if we could have some help from the school in this sense.”

So, how could we make our online teaching more effective?

