HAIGAZIAN UNIVERSITY

OUOTE of the Issue

"eLearning doesn't just "happen"! It requires careful planning and implementation."

Anonymous

2021

March

Issue 24







e-publication for a better university life

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July 28, 2020!

"What a great day", July 28, 2020, was in the history of student orientation at Haigazian University [HU]. The idea of conducting online orientation became reality. A visionary, concise, and practical proposal (see poster below) about conducting 'Online Orientation' to new students was presented to HU President, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, who welcomed the idea and agreed to the proposal. Putting tremendous efforts despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the turbulent situation in the country, and the aftermath of August 4 explosion, all Orientation Faculty members* worked in a strong spirit of teamwork, collegiality, cooperation, and gratitude in order to prepare all needed elearning material and assignments. The Admissions Office, the IT Department, and the Faculty Secretary & Webmaster were very helpful and cooperative in providing all needed support and services to launch and administer the online program in an efficient and effective manner. All these contributions are highly thanked and appreciated. Several informal and formal meetings were conducted in order to meet the new online orientation program challenges and objectives. The 'Online Orientation Roadmap' gained momentum. Announcements and messages kept OR099 learners well informed of the coming steps. The Orientation course (OR099) was introduced in a general zoom meeting during week 1 of the semester. Its page on HU Learning Management System was welldesigned, user-friendly, and rich in information. The Six OR099 sessions; i.e., HU Culture and Spirit (Ethos), Academic Advising, Learning Styles and Skills, Research and Writing, University Life and Personal Development, and Information Technology, were administered asynchronously on Moodle. During week 5, an online exam was administered in order to test the students' knowledge of important concepts and ideas related to the Orientation Program objectives as well as various technical online issues. Later in the semester, an Exit Survey was conducted on Moodle; information about the learners' experiences, achievements, challenges, needs, and problems were gathered in order to assess this new orientation service and to better orient and guide HU learners in the future. Both quantitative and qualitative results have shown that HU "Online Orientation" was impressive and unique; many students consider it helpful, informative, interesting, and challenging. Finally, HU first Online Orientation was a successful step of a thousand miles journey in e-learning and higher education in the 21st century.

DR. BERGE TRABOULSI, Orientation Program Director

* Berge Traboulsi (DTh), Najoie Nasr (DBA), Nizar Al Muhtar (PhD), Rita Merhej (PhD Candidate), Shaghig Hudaverdian (PhD Candidate), Ali Mukallid (MS), Rula Halabi (MS), Sahar Hamzeh (MA), Anita Moutchoyan (MA), Shant Estepan (MBA)



The Orientation Program has a strong spirit of teamwork, collegiality, and cooperation. Its faculty members meet regularly in order to brainstorm, discuss, and decide on major issues, plans, and learning activities.



HU ORIENTATION PROGRAM

FL2020

BEGINNING-OF-SEMESTER FACULTY MEETING

F. Sep. 4, 2020

Agenda

- 1. Words of Welcome (Dr. Berge Traboulsi)
- 2. Online Orientation Period (When, Why and How)
- OR099 (Online: 6 Asynchronous Sessions [Modules] (Moodle: Learning Material, Activities & Assessment, On-Campus CB Tect)
- 4. H5P Presentation (Mr. Ali Moukallid)
- General Zoom Meeting for All Students (Wednesday, Sep. 9, 2020 @ 12 noon) (Mr. Shant Estepan)
- 6. Moodle Technical Issues (Mr. Shant Estepan)
- 7. OR Assistants?!
- 8. Future plans for SP2021
- 9. Other Issues + Announcements



HU ORIENTATION PROGRAM

FL2020

BEGINNING-OF-SEMESTER STUDENT MEETING

F. Sep. 9, 2020

Agenda

- 1. Words of Welcome (Dr. Berge Traboulsi)
- Introduction to OR099 Online Asynchronous Sessions [Moodle: Material, Modules, Learning Assignments, Exam] (Dr. Berge Traboulsi)
- 3. Moodle Guidelines (Mr. Shant Estepan)
- 4. Technical Issues (Mr. Shant Estepan)
- 5. Q&A



HU ORIENTATION PROGRAM

FL2020

TECHNICAL MEETINGS

Agenda [July 17, 2020]

- 1. Online Orientation Concept (Dr. Berge Traboulsi)
- 2. Brainstorming (Dr. Berge Traboulsi & Mr. Shant Estepan)

Agenda [October 6, 2020]

- 1. OR099 Online Exam (Dr. Berge Traboulsi)
- 2. Online Exam Technical & Security Issues (Mr. Shant Estepan)

FL 2020 (END-OF-SEMESTER) ORIENTATION FACULTY MEETING [December 9, 2020] ***PRINCE OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PRO

HU ORIENTATION PROGRAM

FL2020

END-OF-SEMESTER FACULTY MEETING

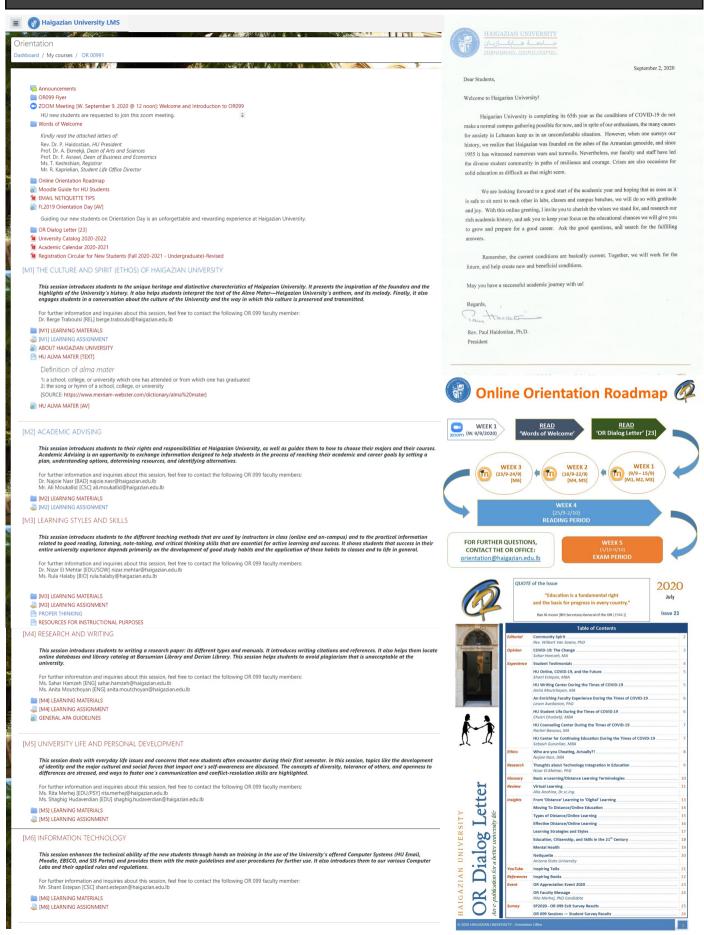
W. Dec. 9, 2020

Agenda

- 1. OR099 Exit Survey (Dr. Najoie Nasr)
- 2. OR099 Online Exam (Mr. Shant Estepan)
- 3. OR099 Final Grades (Dr. Berge Traboulsi)
- 4. SP2021 OR099: Comments and suggestions
- 5. Other Issues
- 6. Group Picture

OR Office OR 099 ONLINE

The Orientation Program uses Moodle—HU LMS as its main platform for the various OR099 sessions, assignments, surveys, Exam, and other activities. It's well-designed and rich in learning material and HU information.



The Orientation Program cooperated closely with the IT Department in order to solve all technical issues that both OR099 faculty and students face during this online journey.

Learning is the End, IT is the Means!

Shant Estepan, MBA (OR Faculty)

HU 'Online Orientation' is a very practical concept. The IT Department and the Orientation Office cooperated closely in order to materialize it on time. This cooperation was obvious in the following areas:

OR Technical Meetings

- Several meetings between the OR Director and myself were conducted in order to discuss the technical steps to transform the on-campus OR program into an online one.
- These meetings aimed at assuring both quality and availability of the learning material, the security of the assignments/examination, the activation of the students' accounts, and the success of the program.

Beginning of Semester Student Meeting

 The new students were introduced to Moodle, HU Learning Management System, and how to use it.

Moodle for HU Students

- A practical demonstration was prepared by myself and uploaded on <u>YouTube</u> in order to help the students use Moodle properly.
- This video contains the following: 1. How to access Moodle and recover their password in case they lost it;
 How to access/download the material;
 How to submit the assignments;
 How to check their grades;
 How to communicate/message instructors;
 How to prepare for the online exam;
 How to participate in the exit survey.

OR099 Exam

 Several tasks related to administering OR099 Exam were successfully accomplished. These tasks were the following: 1. Uploading the questions in a sequential, question randomization, answer shuffling, and time limited way in order to ensure integrity and fairness; 2. Digitally monitoring the exam; and 3. Providing Technical Support to OR learners during the exam period via Zoom.

Finally, HU students are encouraged to take all practical advice into consideration and to remember that "Learning is the End, IT is the Means."

DEVICES

- ⇒ Should be charged or plugged to electricity all the time.
- ⇒ Should have a visible screen.
- ⇒ Should have a typable keyboard.
- ⇒ Should have a movable mouse
- ⇒ Should have an updated browser (Google Chrome, Edge, Firefox)
- ⇒ Should have a working/updated operating system (Windows, OS, Android)

INTERNET / 3Gs

- ⇒ Internet Router should be plugged to UPS.
- ⇒ Internet speed should be more than 2 Mbps.
- ⇒ Internet/3G should have enough data limits (Gigabytes).
- ⇒ Your device should be near to your router (Strong signal).

DATA BACKUP

- ⇒ Save the asynchronous materials on your devices.
- ⇒ Save the asynchronous materials on your USB or external hard disk.
- ⇒ Save the asynchronous materials on your Cloud storages.
- ⇒ Do not delete the emails sent/received from your instructors.

ONLINE EXAMS

- ⇒ Make sure your devices are plugged to the electricity or have a charged battery.
- ⇒ Make sure your internet router is plugged to electricity all the time.
- ⇒ Do not close the Internet Brower during the exam. If you face an electricity or internet cut just wait until it comes back.
- ⇒ Do not go back to previous webpages during the exam. You will lose your answers.

CONTACTS

- ⇒ Mr. Shant Estepan (01.353010 ext. 328): shant.estepan@haigazian.edu.lb
- ⇒ IT Services: its@haigazian.edu.lb

LEARNING CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

The Orientation Program encourages HU students to enjoy reading about the major challenges that they may encounter in their university journey and try to find appropriate practical solutions to their challenges.

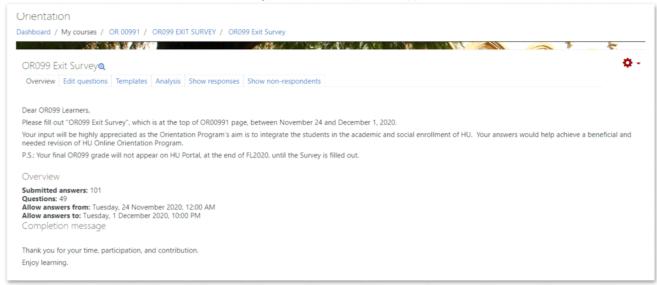
Challenges	Links				
Skills	What are 21st Century Skills?				
e-/Learning	74 Tips on How to Learn Faster, Deeper, and Better How to Enjoy Learning How to Learn Like a Pro How People Learn Best: Active vs. Passive Learning Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Learning in Online Education Best Practices for Asynchronous Learning Getting The Most Out Of Your eLearning Course: 10 Study Tips For Online Learners				
Studying	Studying 101: Study Smarter Not Harder Seven Tips for Home Studying during the Coronavirus Pandemic How to Effectively Study from Home during the Coronavirus Outbreak				
Thinking	Analytical Creative Critical				
Reading	Tips for Reading				
Note-Taking	Effective Note-Taking in Class				
Six Thinking Hats	De Bono's Six Thinking Hats				
SWOT Analysis	SWOT Analysis: How to Develop a Strategy For Success				
PESTLE Analysis	What is the PESTLE Analysis? An Important Business Analytical Tools				
PowerPoint Presentations	50 Effective PowerPoint Presentation Tips (To Improve Your Skills)				
Writing	Paragraph Analytical Expository				
Plagiarism	How to Avoid Plagiarism 12 Different Types of Plagiarism to Stay Avoid				
Paraphrasing	Paraphrase Examples of Paraphrasing without Plagiarizing				
Creativity	How to Find the Inspiration to Become a more Creative Person 25 Ways to Be More Creative				
Innovation	11 Proven Habits of Highly Innovative People				
Tolerance	Being Tolerant How to Be Tolerant to People's Opinions Tolerance, Acceptance, Understanding				
Freedoms	Freedom of Expression Freedom of Speech				

The OR Office conducted the OR 099 Exit Survey during FL2020 semester and gathered information about the learners' experiences, achievements, challenges, needs and problems in order to better serve and orient HU learners in the future.

NB: The Exit Survey Questions were prepared by Dr. Berge Traboulsi, Ms. Sahar Hamzeh, and Dr. Najoie Nasr.

Report on OR 099 Exit Survey FL 2020-2021: Main Results

Najoie Nasr, DBA (OR Faculty)



95.28% students answered the OR 099 Exit survey for Fall 2020-2021. The survey consisted of 49 questions divided into 6 sections as follows:

Section 1: Classification Questions

- 55.45% of the students are from Arts and Sciences.
- 82% Sophomore
- 76% joined OR099 during regular registration.

Section 2: General questions about OR099 online presence and course organization.

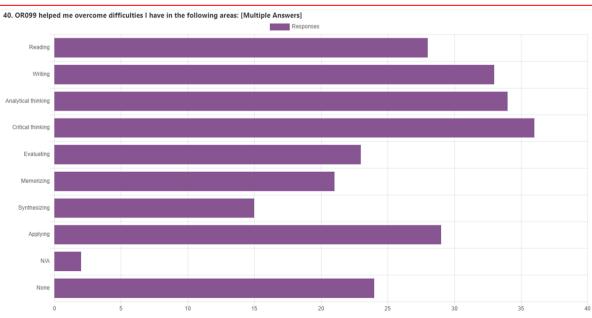
- The majority found Moodle OR099 Page well-organized (54.46%) and 39.6% found it moderately organized. Only 5.94% found it poorly organized.
- Most of the students (39.6%) read all the welcoming words.
- The most read supplement by OR099 students was the flyer (84.16%) followed by the OR Dialog Letter (56.44%).
- A vast majority of 92% of students checked the Orientation content on HU website.
- 82% watched Moodle Guide for HU Students.
- On a scale from 1 strongly disagree to 5 strongly agree, 55.45% of the students agreed and 12.87% strongly agreed that OR099 Moodle platform was user-friendly.
- Around 65% either agreed or strongly agreed that the objectives of OR099 were clearly stated.
- Around 64% agreed or strongly agreed that they got a clear idea on how to start OR099 course.
- Around 49% agreed or strongly agreed that OR099 online course was easy to navigate.
- Around 71% agreed or strongly agreed that the instructions concerning the online assignments were clear.
- Around 68% found that the OR099 Workload was in general moderate.

Section 3: Learning Experience and Modules

*In agreement = Agree + Strongly agree

	[M1] Culture	[M2] Advising	[M3] Learning	[M4] Research	[M5] University Life	[M6] IT
The module content was valuable. (5-point Likert scale)	64.36% in agreement*	65.35% in agreement*	58.42% in agreement*	60.4% in agree- ment*	67.33% in agreement*	76.24% in agreement*
The concepts were clearly explained in the learning material. (5-point Likert scale)	75.25% in agreement*	64.36% in agreement*	69.31% in agreement*	62.37% in agreement*	74.26% in agreement*	77.23% in agreement*
The asynchro- nous learning assignment was (easy, moderate, difficult)	68.32% moderate	73.27% moderate	69.31% moderate	65.35% moderate	70.3% moderate	45.54% easy and 45.54% moderate
The time allocated for the asynchronous assignment was (enough, not enough)	80.2% enough	84.16% enough	80.2% enough	78.22% enough	85.15% enough	84.16% enough

- OR099 helped students overcome difficulties they have in the following areas: Critical thinking, Analytical thinking, and writing.
- Upon the completion of OR099 they still have difficulties in understanding the following aspects (none vast majority (63.67%) followed by time management (23.76%).



BERGE TRABOULSI

Section 4: OR099 Online Exam

- 65.35% found the online exam to be fair.
- 78% found that the time allocated to the exam was not enough.
- Problems faced were mostly technical either due to internet (66.34%) or to Moodle (64.36%). Few faced electricity problems (36.63%) and others faced an issue with the time of the exam (67.33%).
- Vast majority (83%) prefer the objective questions in OR099 Final Exam.



REMARKS

- OR099 online Exam is a learning exercise. Enjoy it.
- Duration: 30 min
- Zoom Session for technical Support: https://haigazian-edu-lb.zoom.us/j/91333770412?pwd=ZWd6eldrWTBJblY2aDdrZ2ErTIRnZz09 (Meeting ID: 913 3377 0412 and Passcode:
- Grades: 50 points [Weight: 50% of the final OR099 grade]
- The 50 objective questions (35 T/F and 15 MC) will be randomly placed and shuffled.
- Click on the right answer.
- Please note that the exam questions are sequential (once you finish one and move to the next, you cannot go back to it).
- Cheating is not good. It degrades the learner's moral and academic integrity. There will be no makeup exam.

Section 5: Preferred form of Sessions

41% preferred the sessions to be given in both synchronous (zoom) and asynchronous form (learning assignments on Moodle), with a greater preference to synchronous (33%) vs. asynchronous (27%).

Section 6: Recommendations and experience in OR099

Do you have any recommendations for improvement in HU Online Orientation Program?

40% did not recommend any improvements. Few students recommended less material, more time, more interaction with teachers through zoom sessions.

Describe in one sentence your personal experience in OR099.

Overarching answer is that it was a good and beneficial experience yet challenging.

Use 5 keywords to describe 'HU Online Orientation Program' to a new student.

Helpful, informative, interesting, challenging and time-consuming were the most used words.



YouTube INSPIRING VIDEOS



Teaching methods for inspiring the students of the future

J. Ruhl

[TEDx, 2015]



The era of online learning

N. Moshiri

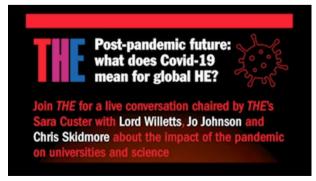
[TEDx, 2017]



How an explosion in remote learning changes education

R. C. Picker

[The University of Chicago, 2020]



What does Covid-19 mean for global higher education?

D. Willetts, J. Johnson, & C. Skidmore

[Times Higher Education, 2020]



Digital education and the future of learning

G. Merchant

[Deloitte US, 2017]



Re-inventing education for the digital age

D. Middlelbeck

[TEDx, 2019]



Reforming higher education for the post-covid world

S. Davies

[IEA London, 2020]



No going back? UK higher education post-pandemic

E. Hardy, A. Muscatelli, L. Barnez, & R. Hewitt

[Times Higher Education, 2020]

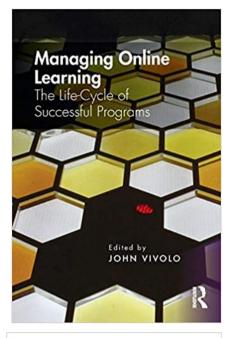
References LEARNING ABOUT!

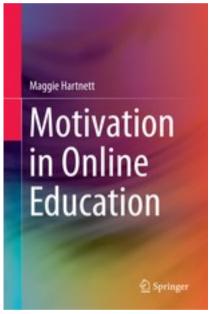


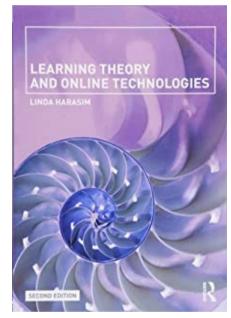


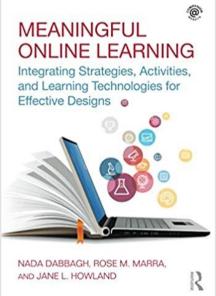
LEARNING ONLINE

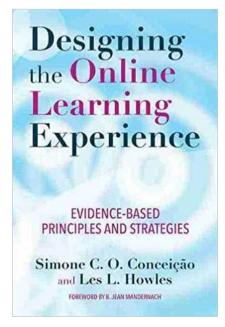
THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
GEORGE VELETSIANOS

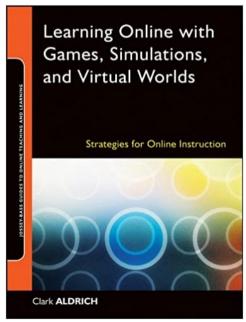


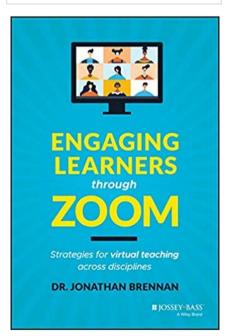














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- Mr. Shant Estepan [OR Lecturer] for his Moodle technical support
 - Dr. Najoie Nasr [OR Lecturer] for her Exit Survey analysis
- Ms. Sahar Hamzeh [OR Lecturer] for her editing of this OR Dialog Letter issue

IMPORTANT ORIENTATION LINKS

The Orientation Program (Mission, Goals, and Services) http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/admissions/orientation/

OR099 http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/admissions/orientation/or-099/

OR099 FAQ's http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/admissions/orientation/or-faqs/

OR Announcements http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/admissions/orientation/or-announcements/

OR Publications http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/admissions/orientation/or-publications/

OR Testimonials http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/admissions/orientation/testimonials/

OR Team http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/admissions/orientation/or-team/

OR Contact http://www.haigazian.edu.lb/admissions/orientation/or-contact/



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