

Redesigning a Group Assignment Using Ethics

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Course Background

ECN 201 and ECN 202:

- Principles of Macroeconomics and Principles of Microeconomics
 - Mostly freshmen and sophomores
- Typical majors are ECN, BUS, TMD, PHARM, Engineering
- Typical sections have 45-55 students

Course Redesign Goals

- I took and received my certificate the Ethics Throughout The Curriculum course during the summer 2021 to redesign my group assignments.
- The group assignments enable students to think critically about the newspaper articles and to analyze numbers and graphs so they gain a deeper appreciation to understand and gain knowledge in economics.

Course Changes

Course Change Regarding the Group Assignments:

- I had held the group assignments during class time, but I decided to hold the group assignments outside of class time.
- I would assign a group leader to delegate the work for the group assignments outside of class time.
- I designed a peer review assessment sheet for group leaders to fill out to see who has been doing the work and who hasn't, so that students don't free ride and receive credit for work that they didn't do:
 - 0-No participation in discussions and didn't do any work at all 0 points
 - 1-Participated in discussions but didn't do any work 3 points deducted from the group assignment.
 - 2-No participation in discussions but did the work 2 points deducted from the group assignment.
 - 3- Participated in discussions and did the work (Full Credit).

Results

Modifying the group assignment improved student learning in several dimensions:

- Students are able to connect the course concepts to real world examples and analyze graphs and data clearly and take full responsibility to participate and do the work ethically.
- The group assignment grades improved by 75% during the school year 2021 compared to the school years 2019 and 2020.
- Students performed better and improved their grades and course work based on my feedback in the school year 2021 compared to the school years 2019 and 2020.

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