

Practice of Teaching Surveying for Undergraduates Assisted by Rain-Classroom Platform

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Key words: Education; Teaching Mode; Rain-Classroom; Wechat; PowerPoint

SUMMARY

Nowadays, smart phones have become widely used communication tools. In China, Wechat is a social software on the smart phones for almost everyone, and Rain Classroom is a powerful and user-friendly plug-in application based on Wechat developed and launched by Tsinghua University and School Online in April 2016. Its basic features include syncing WeChat with Powerpoint (PPT), turning a smartphone to a teaching/learning tool, generating real-time feedback, creating polls and quizzes, calling rolls randomly and collecting data for learning analytics purpose. It can conveniently realize instant interaction between instructors and students. Instructors may know students quite well through the dynamic monitoring data analysis of teaching status and learning effect.

This paper discusses how to deliver the course “Surveying” to undergraduates supported by the Rain-Classroom which can facilitate the instructors and students in the three stages of the teaching and learning including before the class, during the class and after the class. Before the class, the instructor may upload the lecture materials for students to prepare the lessons on the smart phone, and know how many students have finished the preparation and which slide puzzles the students. During the class, the instructor may have a roll call, use the smart phone as a remote control to play the Powerpoint slides, and publish questions through the Rain-Classroom. After the class, the instructor may throw quizzes, questions and polls. For example, the instructor publishes a quiz on the Rain Classroom which has 10-15 questions and their types are “Fill blank” and “Single or multiple choice”. After students have submitted the quiz, the instructor can know the scores of each student and average score of the class instantly. The instructor even knows the correction rate, and who gives the right or wrong answer for a certain question. Thus, it saves the instructor’s marking time and the students’ answering time. In a poll, students like such kind of small quizzes that can help them grasp the basic principles and basic calculations of the course conveniently. From the

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practice of teaching “Surveying”, the Rain Classroom is a very useful assistant teaching and learning mode.

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