SMARTPHONES, LAPTOPS AND THE CLASSROOM

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AUP – Teaching and Learning Center
Personal tech is already in the classroom

- Digital natives
- Laptops, tablets and smartphones
- 777 students surveyed; 6 US universities
- « The average respondent used a digital device for non-class purposes 10.93 times during a typical school day for activities including texting, social networking and emailing »
- « More than 80% of the respondents indicated such behavior caused them to pay less attention in the classroom and miss instruction »
Personal tech is already in the classroom

• James M. Lang, ‘No, Banning Laptops is Not the Answer’, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 11, 2016

• « Devices have backed their way into high-school and elementary classrooms, and students in college will continue to want access to tools that have been present since their earliest school experiences »

• « The classroom should serve as an active laboratory of learning, a place where students engage with the course material through multiple cognitive streams »
But…

• Pam A. Mueller & Daniel M. Oppenheimer, ‘The Pen is Mightier Than the Keyboard’, *Psychological Science*, 2014

• « When laptops are used […] to take notes, they may […] be impairing learning because their use results in shallower processing »

• « Students who took notes on laptops performed worse on conceptual questions than students who took notes longhand »
But…


• « Students [using laptops during lectures] suffered decrements on traditional measures of memory for lecture content »

• While students think they can multitask – they actually can’t do so effectively
But…

- Relationship between student achievement and banning mobile phones (four English schools)
  - « increases in performance are driven by the lowest achieving students »
- Higher achieving students weren’t really impacted
- « restricting mobile phone use can be a low-cost policy to reduce educational inequalities »
But…

Clay Shirkey, New York University, 2014

« Allowing laptop use in class is like allowing boombox use in class – it lets each person choose whether to degrade the experience of those around them »
Productive uses for smartphones

1. Notifications, eg. Remind.com

2. Quick answers or Googling

3. Audience feedback, eg. PollEverywhere

4. Peer assessment, eg. GoogleForms, TodaysMeet, Twitter

5. Editing/commenting on group text, eg. GoogleDocs, Office 365, Twitter hashtag.

6. GPS/Geotagging
Productive uses for laptops

Collective mapping and diagramming

Coggle
Creately
XMind
Today’s Meet

Enhance classrooms. Enable discussions. Empower students.
TodaysMeet gives everyone a voice
Twitter #hashtags
Google Drive