
From: Brenda Torney <btorney@aup.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, December 3, 2019 9:37 AM
To: Faculty <Faculty@aup.edu>
Subject: TLC News - take-home exams

Dear Colleagues,

Many of us are preparing take-home exams this fall due to the unusual end-of-semester provisions. Whether you're designing a take-home exam for the first time or you've written them before, it's always helpful to reflect on the challenges of such an exercise. We provide a few sources here for now or the future.

The first group of links provides useful reminders about take-home exams and guidelines for ensuring academic integrity:

These links contain brief and explicit advice about take-home exams and academic integrity:
<http://www.colby.edu/academicintegrity/take-home-exams/>
<https://honor.fas.harvard.edu/take-home-exams-tell-it-it>

This link provides extensive advice for preparing exams in general (not only for take-homes):
<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/developing-assignments/exams/exam-preparation>

For those interested in reading more, the remaining two sources highlight the debate around take-home exams at the university level, including to what extent memorizing information in today's digital world is necessary or desirable. The first, **"Take-Home Exams in Higher Education: A Systematic Review"**, an article by **Lars Bengtsson (University of Gothenburg)**, describes a review of the research and concludes that "take-home exams may be the preferred choice of assessment method on the higher taxonomy levels because they promote higher-order thinking skills and allow time for reflection". He adds, "They are also more consonant with constructive alignment theories and turn the assessment into a learning activity. Due to the obvious risk of unethical student behavior, take-home exams are not recommended on the lowest taxonomy level":

Educ. Sci. 2019, 9(4), 267; <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci9040267>
<https://www.mdpi.com/2227-7102/9/4/267/htm>

The last (and brief) article explains why **Eric Mazur (Harvard University) encourages the use of laptops, phones and internet during exams:**

Times [London, England], 8 Sept. 2017, p. 25. *Gale OneFile: News*, <https://link-gale-com.proxy.aup.fr/apps/doc/A503856876/STND?u=aupl&sid=STND&xid=dcdb7280>.

We wish you the best for these last weeks of the semester. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions about designing exams or anything else related to your teaching.

Best wishes,
Your TLC

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