

Making Toxicology Course More Fun and Interactive

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The 3-3-4 scheme for Hong Kong's senior secondary education and higher education has been implemented for some years. On one hand, subjects are now more diversified to nurture a broader scope of views and life-long learning abilities for students, and the traditional division of "arts stream subjects" and "science stream subjects" no longer exists. On the other hand, such heterogeneity poses a problem for science education at higher education level, as some university students majoring in science do not have sufficient prior knowledge in science at all.

Another major problem faced by science educators nowadays is that many students are unmotivated and not persistent to acquire the required scientific knowledge and skills. Educators have had a hard time addressing questions like "How to motivate students for self-learning?", "How to arouse students' interests in studying science?", "How to keep their studying momentum?" and "How to correlate the lecture contents to our daily life?"

In 2016 and 2017, the course "BIOL3016 Environmental Health and Toxicology" at HKBU was supported by the Course Enhancement Fund from UGC and the internal seed funding at HKBU for the projects entitled "Enhancing Information Literacy in Hong Kong Higher Education" and "Developing Online Courses/Blended Learning Initiatives with FutureLearn", respectively. These projects not only pinpointed the above-mentioned teaching and learning challenges, but also fostered internationalisation, aligning with the global trend and HKBU's Institutional Strategic Plan 2018-2028.

UGC-T&L Project - Enhancing Information Literacy in Hong Kong Higher Education

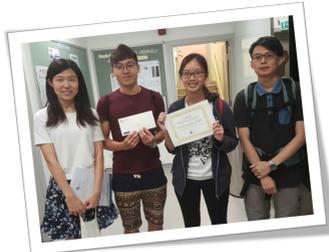
Developing Online Courses/Blended Learning Initiatives with FutureLearn

Future Learn



Activities:

- **Online reading and assignments** – to stimulate students' self-learning (<http://hkbu.libguides.com/biol3016>)
- **Guest lectures by local and overseas experts** – to arouse students' interests in science
- **Library workshop** – tailor-made training on writing scientific articles (<https://goo.gl/N1w1tw>)
- **Video assignment** – to motivate students' self-learning and facilitate them to relate knowledge and daily life
- **Blended Learning using FutureLearn** – to enable students to learn alongside their peers in other universities with different cultural backgrounds (<http://cht1.hkbu.edu.hk/main/onlinecourse/ot/>)
- **Theme-based class discussion conducted by local and overseas lecturers** – to reinforce students' critical thinking



• CHAN Wing Sing
• HO Wai Lam
• MA Yan Ting



• FAN Chi Wai
• MA Wing Ngai
• TSUI Hoi Yan



• LAI Tsz Ying
• LO Wing Yi
• TANG Chun Yat



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Students were requested work in teams and prepare a 5-minute video to show potential toxicants that could be taken from the seemingly "delicious" food and the underlying mechanisms of toxicity.

