



PASS in GEF: Implementation of Peer Learning in General Education



SZETO Wai Man, LEUNG Mei Yee, LI Ming Kenneth, WU Jun Vivian, YIP Lo Ming Amber, WONG Ka Tai Isaac and LAI Ka Yu Ann

Office of University General Education, CUHK

What is GEF?

General Education Foundation Programme

- Two common core courses required for all undergraduates

> In Dialogue with Humanity

- Reflecting on good life and ideal society

> In Dialogue with Nature

- Exploring the understanding of nature

> Focusing on reading classics

- *The Analects, Qur'an, The Social Contract, Republic, The Principia, On the Origin of Species...*

Mode of Study in a Week

45 minutes
150 students

Lecture

Gaining the background and the key ideas

Classics

Close reading on their own



105 minutes
25 students

Tutorial discussion

Participating in group discussion

60 minutes
max. 25 students

PASS

Peer Assisted Study Sessions

A voluntary academic assistance programme that utilizes peer-led group learning to help students succeed

Implementation of PASS (2016-17)

- 23 study groups with 186 sessions in Term 1
- 20 study groups with 199 sessions in Term 2

PASS Participants

x338 in Term 1 **x426** in Term 2

- Participating in setting the agenda of each PASS session
- Reinforcing understanding of the texts by close reading
- Consolidating key concepts through peer-led discussion

PASS Supervisors x5

- Completed the accredited PASS Supervisor Training
- Reviewing the year plan and monitoring the progress of PASS
- Recruiting, training and supervising the PASS Leaders
- Liaising with course teachers

Course Teachers x14

- Supporting PASS Leaders with subject contents
- Promoting PASS to students

PASS Administrator x1

- Scheduling PASS sessions
- Coordinating recruitment and training
- Preparing promotion materials
- Handling payments and enquiries

PASS Helps Students (Focus Group Study in 2016-17 Term 1)

Improve understanding of the classics

"We could understand the meaning of the sentences but not the whole idea when reading on our own. In PASS, we could clarify our understanding."

Identify and connect major ideas

"The PASS Leader asked us to read and discuss particular paragraphs that helped us to locate the main ideas in the text."

"PASS helped me grasp the gist of each text and then I could understand how the other parts of the text related to it."

Think from different perspectives

"The PASS Leader posed guiding questions for us to discuss. Then we could learn from other participants their views on the texts from different perspectives."

Foster confidence in tutorial discussion

"Similar to tutorials, the setting of PASS is small group discussion. Becoming more at ease to this form of learning, I am more confident in expressing my opinions in class."