

ONLINE LECTURES: which format is best, when?!

From the student's perspective, depending on the content being delivered, some lecture formats may work better than others

ONLINE LECTURE FORMATS

Pre-recorded lecture

Full-length (e.g. 1 hour)
Video snippets (e.g. 15 min)

PowerPoint slides with audio narration

File uploaded as .ppt or .pptx with audio clips embedded in slides

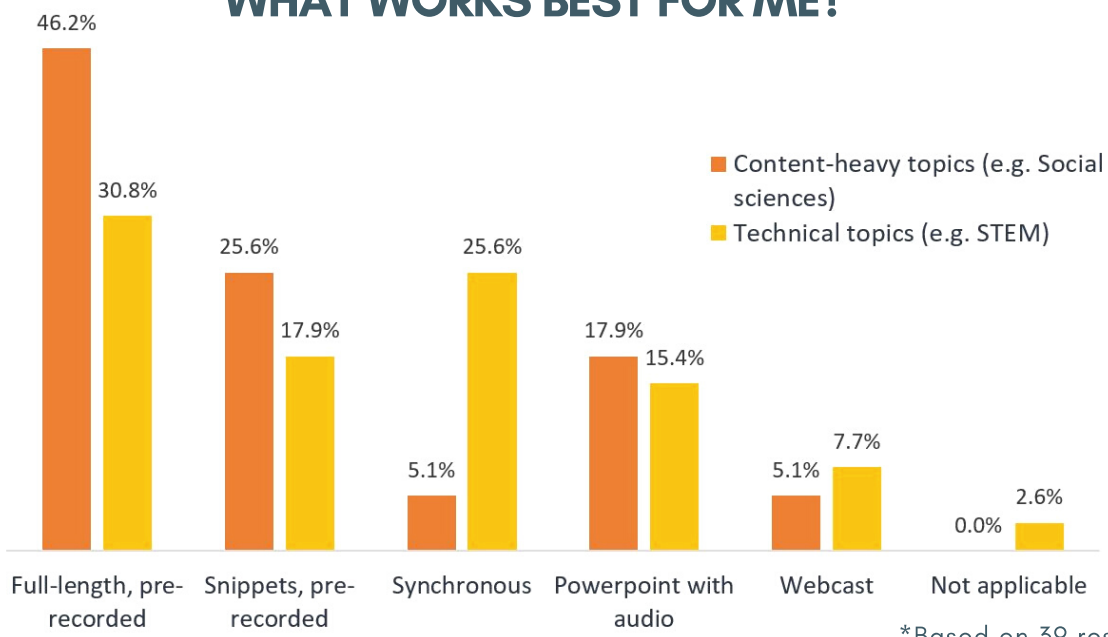
Synchronous

Real-time lecture held via platforms, e.g. Zoom, MS Teams, Google classroom

Webcast

Video recording of previous in-class session

WHAT WORKS BEST FOR ME?



How do I feel about each online lecture format?

Students explain their choice of lecture formats below.



Pre-recorded lecture

- Convenience and flexibility
- Caters to different learning paces
- Replay deemed important for study
- Least disruptive (w.r.t. technical issues)
- Less stressful than real-time classes

Full-length videos

- Traditional format, so students are comfortable with this
- Most students prefer to sit through the entire lecture straight instead of switching between snippets
- Less workload to record for teachers compared to 15-min snippets (Yes, our students think of us too!)

Snippets

- More digestible/bite-sized than 1-hr videos as some prefer breaks in between due to attention span issues

Powerpoint slides with audio narration

- Notes can be typed directly in Powerpoint itself

Synchronous

- Can clarify, discuss and ask questions on the spot
- Timely feedback
- Social interaction makes it more motivating and engaging

Webcast

- Potential learning gains from questions raised in past lectures + added advantages of video lectures (flexibility of repeating, pausing etc)



- No real-time feedback (unless quizzes with feedback are incorporated)
- Cannot clarify doubts on the spot

- As above

- As above
- May be hard to find information between snippets of videos compared to a full-length video

- Main downside - technical inconvenience:
- Note-taking a hassle when viewed in presentation mode (especially if there are incorporated effects in slides)
- File size too big
- Need to click Play button on every slide for audio

- Home environment may not be conducive for some students to attend at specified times
- Technical issues
- Students may not have good WiFi connectivity
- Stressful for some

- Content may not be up to date
- Audio issues: sometimes difficult to hear students' responses or questions in class