The Impact of Integrated Learning and Assessments on the Engagement and Learning of Law Students

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Educational Problems:
- Low and late engagement
- Sense of isolation
- Low marks
- High attrition

Educational Goals:
- Increase student retention
- Enhance learning experience
- Improve student engagement

Students:
CQUni 2nd year LLB students (Term 3, 2016)
Online/distance mode
Public International and Human Rights Law, and Administrative Law

TEACHING INNOVATION
Three integrated assessments revolving around one course-related central problem, event or issue

Assessments:
1) online group discussion (20%);
2) group Web Page (30%);
3) individual research essay (50%)

Students choose the central problem, event or issue

OUTCOMES
Early engagement
High level of engagement
High marks
Enhanced learning experience
High completion, low attrition

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
Online survey (SurveyMonkey)
In-depth interviews
Students’ records

RESEARCH ESSAY
If you have been following the news on the war in Syria, you would have come across horrifying images and stories of the devastation and death in that country. Overall estimates of death as of 2016 vary between 312,003 to 400,000. In the Philippines, its President Rodrigo Duterte who took office in June this year has ordered the police to kill drug suspects or anyone suspected of using or selling drugs. As a result, since Duterte took office, over 5,000 people have been killed – at an average of 1,000 people being killed each month or 33 people being killed each day. These are people who have never been charged in court, but merely suspected by the police on the basis of some “tip” or suspicion as being involved in the drug trade, even as