

CANVAS Announcement

Computational Methods

IRB Study: STUDY000692

By now, you must have used many resources that are available at <http://nm.MathForCollege.com> for the EML3041 course. We continue to develop, assess, revise and refine these resources. Many of the changes and updates you have appreciated in these resources were a result of feedback given by previous students such as you. As part of a study, we are investigating the use of flipped classroom modality with adaptive platform lessons on student performance, and of being able to intervene early to improve student success in the course.

The duration of the participation is the current semester you are enrolled in the course.

An extra credit of 2 points will be given for participation or you can write a 500-word essay for the same credit.

If you take part in this study, the following items are transparent to you as a student. As part of the EML3041 course, all students registered for the class are given a concept test in the end of the semester, take online quizzes and lessons, and take a final examination. As part of the study, learning metrics such as responses/scores/time/proficiency level/readiness on the tests, online quizzes and examinations will be recorded. We will obtain demographic data such as age, gender, race/ethnicity, transfer status and course grades in the Calculus I, II, III and ODE courses from you and verify it with the transcript data available in the department. We are requesting you to allow us to use this demographic data.

Race, ethnicity, Pell grant recipient status, gender, age, grades or AP scores of pre-requisite courses, cumulative GPA, major, academic level, transfer status, number of credit hours, and hours worked at a job per week data will be self-reported and you can decline to answer any of these questions. Once the test/quiz/exam data are aligned (i.e. put in the same row in an excel sheet), this data is sent to our external assessment analyst at the University of Pittsburgh, who then further aligns this data with your demographic data for further analysis. The assessment analyst has only your self-selected code and not your name and is not able to relate the two.

You will be also taking 3 surveys managed directly by our assessment analyst at the University of Pittsburgh. A copy of these 3 surveys are under Modules in CANVAS for you to preview. The assessment analyst will provide me only with the self-selected codes of participants who have completed the surveys. You will need to give me this code so that I can post the extra credit and for aligning the online lessons/test/exam data with it. I will receive the data of the two anonymous surveys without any codes and the demographic survey with codes after the final grades have been posted. This data is received for use in future studies. The time estimate for filling the 3 surveys is about 2-2.5 hours.

Focus groups will also be formed. For the focus group, you can volunteer to have an online, phone, or face-to-face conversation of about one hour but definitely not more than two hours with the assessment analyst from the University of Pittsburgh. If we get more volunteers than needed, I will choose them randomly. A payment of \$30 per student is available for focus group participants. Data from the focus group will be provided to me after final grades have been posted.

The assessment analyst from the University of Pittsburgh will conduct pre- and post- interviews of instructors of the course. The reports and papers on the results of the study are written at the aggregated data level and never at on individual student level.

If you want to participate in this study, or the alternative assignment, or not participate, please go to CANVAS and choose your option by taking the survey called “Informed Consent Participation Survey – Opt In, Opt Out, Alternative Assignment”.

If you have any questions, please let me know (Autar Kaw, kaw@usf.edu, 813-974-5626).