

Advantages and Challenges of Online Organic Chemistry Courses

1. Content Advantage: Pause and rewind!
 - In live class, if I talk too fast or a student is distracted, the moment is gone.
 - With videos, you can rewind and review explanation on difficult stuff
 - Sometimes, something made sense in class. But that night or days/weeks later, you don't remember the logic. With the videos, you can review.
2. Content Advantage: Speed control.
 - If English is your second language, you can set the videos to play slower.
 - You can also set videos to play faster.
3. Self-discipline/self-motivation/procrastination: the online disadvantage!
 - Neither your friends nor I will be able to see if you're "not showing up".
4. Study groups are harder, and the sense of community and shared challenge is lost.
 - In a regular class, you may study with friends, and discuss problems with friends, and encourage each other if one gets discouraged.
5. You won't get your graded tests back, and for students using proctoring you won't be able to see them. Not nice. This is one aspect of asynchronous online organic that can't mirror regular class. But no practical way I can get around it. Sorry. Students taking tests locally will have opportunity to view their graded tests in my office, or immediately following the tests, but will otherwise not be allowed to keep them.
6. Getting help from the teacher via office hours is different/harder.
 - For local students, I will still have office hours
 - I am usually very responsive to emails or phone calls.
 - "Virtual office hours" is not impossible but is rather difficult for distance students.