Challenges with Blended Learning

# I teach 150+ students

* Group activities + Peer feedback
* Automated grading/Feedback
  + Through online activities and peer-to-peer
* Discuss in pairs, let the teacher collect the answers
* Split the class
* Peer instruction

# Students don’t come to the face-to-face sessions

* There should be added value for them
* Challenge them beforehand (by means of nice questions), and make them curious about the F2F session
* Award bonus points
* Make it more useful
* Does it matter/ Why should they come to class?
* Make it mandatory to attend
* Post questions beforehand that will be answered/discussed in class
* Don’t publish some content

# Students are lagging behind because they cannot keep up with the out of class assignments

* Less out of class, more in class assignments
* Give ‘exam’ points for the written exam at the end
* Include ‘incubation time’
* Measure and adapt on-the-fly
  + How? 🡪 Ask the students
* Can some material be optional?
* Why are they lagging behind? What is the reason?

# Instructors assign students too much work

* Cluster students into groups. Divide the work in the groups.
* Calculate how much time your students have for the assignments
* Let students pick a couple of assignments

# Students aren’t completing out-of-class assignments

* Clear instruction on what they need to do and when
* Give extra motivation through peer-to-peer interaction
* Build f2f such that advance preparation is needed
* Make a small part of the assignment compulsory

# How to accommodate the varying level of the students?

* Bonus points/tasks
* Do peer-to-peer tasks, so they can learn form on another
* Differentiate in online questions: easy, average, hard
* Extra in-depth materials
* Optional challenges for them
* Engage the into the research in the field
* Students create course materials