

**Learner perspectives on the use of a learning  
management system in first-year Economics**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>LIST OF TABLES.....</b>	<b>VII</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>VIII</b>
<b>DEFINITIONS OF KEY CONCEPTS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>IX</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ORIENTATION TO THE STUDY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Introduction.....	1
1.2. Problem statement.....	4
1.3. Research questions.....	5
1.4. Purpose of the study.....	6
1.5. Objectives.....	6
1.6. The scope and context of the study.....	7
1.7. Exclusions from this study .....	7
1.8. Limitations of the study .....	8
1.9. Significance and potential contribution of the study.....	8
1.10. Research method .....	9
1.11. Research design.....	9
1.11.1 Population and sampling.....	9
1.11.2 Data collection.....	10
1.12. Data analysis .....	11
1.12.1 Authenticity and trustworthiness.....	11
1.12.2 Crystallisation:.....	11
1.13. Literature control.....	11
1.14. Ethical considerations.....	12
1.14.1 Informed consent.....	12
1.14.2 Anonymity .....	12
1.14.3 Withdrawal from the project.....	13
1.15. Role of the researcher .....	13
1.16. Outline of the study.....	14

1.17. Summary .....	16
<b>CHAPTER TWO:.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>LITERATURE IN CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>17</b>
2.1 Introduction .....	17
2.2 Teaching and learning within the HE environment.....	19
2.2.1 Teaching (Or lecturing?).....	20
2.2.2 Learning:.....	21
2.2.3 Active learning .....	29
2.2.4 Interaction.....	29
2.2.4.1 Student/ teacher (or learner/instructor).....	32
2.2.4.2 Student /content (or learner/content).....	33
2.2.4.3 Student/student (or learner/learner) .....	34
2.2.5 Cooperative and collaborative learning .....	35
2.3 Problems relating to the face-to-face classroom.....	37
2.3.1 Large classes .....	37
2.4 What is e-learning?.....	38
2.4.1 Blended learning.....	40
2.4.2 Learning Management Systems (LMS) .....	43
2.4.3 Why did e-learning not fulfil its early promises?.....	43
2.4.4 How can we use e-learning to improve on-campus learning? .....	46
2.4.5 Note-taking vs Note-making .....	49
2.4.6 Groupwork.....	50
2.4.7 Questioning .....	50
2.4.8 Cautioning against e-learning .....	50
2.5 How might teacher and student roles change?.....	51
2.6 Previous studies .....	54
2.7 Conceptual framework .....	56
2.8 Conclusion .....	59
<b>CHAPTER 3.....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>60</b>

3.1	Introduction .....	60
3.2	Conceptualisation .....	60
3.3	Research paradigm.....	62
3.4	Research Strategy .....	64
3.5	Instruments, Data collection methods and Fieldwork practices .....	69
3.5.1	Data collection .....	69
3.5.2	Triangulation.....	69
3.5.3	Methodology.....	70
3.5.4	Focus Group discussions .....	73
3.5.5	Structured and Semi-structured Questionnaires.....	76
3.5.6	Course evaluation.....	78
3.5.7	Online Participant Observation.....	79
3.6	Sample design and sampling methods .....	80
3.7	Data capturing and data editing .....	82
3.7.1	Data/content analysis .....	82
3.8	Shortcomings and sources of error.....	84
Crystallisation.....		84
Member checks .....		85
Peer reviews.....		85
3.9	Conclusion .....	85
<b>CHAPTER 4: .....</b>		<b>86</b>
<b>FINDINGS.....</b>		<b>86</b>
4.1	Introduction .....	86
4.2	Interaction with the lecturer or the representative of the lecturer .....	88
4.2.1	Category 1: Understanding.....	90
4.2.1.1	Help/explain .....	91
4.2.1.2	Feedback .....	92
4.2.1.3	Understand.....	93
4.2.1.4	Satisfaction.....	94
4.2.2	Category 2: Convenience .....	98
4.2.2.1	Quick.....	98
4.2.2.2	Easy .....	100

4.2.2.3 Convenient.....	102
4.2.3 Category 3: Motivation and Encouragement.....	106
4.2.3.1 Lack of self-confidence.....	106
4.2.3.2 Motivation and Encouragement.....	109
4.2.3.3 Care .....	111
4.3 Interaction with one another (peer interaction).....	116
4.3.1 Category 1: Learning .....	118
4.3.1.1 Interaction .....	119
4.3.1.2 Understand.....	121
4.3.2 Category two: Confidence building .....	125
4.3.3 Category 3: Application .....	127
4.4 Interaction with the study material/content.....	135
4.4.1 Category 1: Preparation .....	137
4.4.1.1 Prepare .....	137
4.4.2 Category 2: Notes/ note-taking.....	139
4.4.2.1 Concentrate.....	140
4.4.3 Category 3: Continuous learning .....	141
4.4.3.1 Understanding.....	141
4.4.3.2 Self-study/study.....	142
4.4.3.3 Practical/South African Economy .....	143
4.4.3.4 Tutorials/Quizzes.....	144
4.4.4 Category 4: Deeper learning.....	146
4.4.4.1 Application.....	147
4.4.4.2 Interest .....	148
4.4.5 Category 5: Additional Information .....	149
4.4.6 Category 6: Generic Skills .....	150
4.4.6.1 Computer literacy/computer user .....	151
4.4.6.2 Learning/life skills.....	152
4.5 Negative aspects of using the LMS.....	153
4.5.1 Time-consuming .....	154
4.5.2 Technology.....	154
4.5.3 Extra effort.....	155
4.5.4 Late notes/responses .....	156
4.6 Summary .....	157

<b>CHAPTER 5:</b> .....	<b>158</b>
<b>REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>158</b>
5.1 Introduction .....	158
5.2 Research question .....	158
5.3 Sub Questions .....	159
5.4 Answers to the sub-questions.....	160
5.4.1 Sub-question one .....	160
5.4.1.1 Category 1: Understanding: academic issues .....	161
5.4.1.2 Category 2: Convenience: practical issues .....	162
5.4.1.3 Category 3: Motivation: emotional issues.....	163
5.4.2 Sub-question two .....	164
5.4.2.1 Category 1: Learning: Pedagogical Issues.....	164
5.4.2.2 Category 2: Application: Academic Issues .....	165
5.4.2.3 Category 3: Confidence building: Social Issues .....	166
5.4.3 Sub-question 3 .....	167
5.4.3.1 Category 1: Preparation .....	168
5.4.3.2 Category 2: Notes/note taking.....	168
5.4.3.3 Category 3: Continuous learning.....	169
Additional material.....	169
Discussions .....	169
Quizzes .....	170
5.4.3.4 Category 4: Deeper learning .....	170
5.4.3.5 Category 5: Additional Information .....	171
5.4.3.6 Category 6 : Generic Skills.....	171
5.4.4 Negative experiences .....	172
5.4 Summary of findings .....	173
5.5 Reflection.....	175
5.5.1 Methodological reflection.....	175
5.5.2 Substantive reflections .....	177
5.5.3 Scientific reflections.....	178
5.6 Recommendations .....	180
5.6.1 Recommendations for policy and practice.....	180
5.6.2 Recommendations for further research .....	182

5.7 Conclusion .....	183
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<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>185</b>
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## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: The structure of the course before and after the inclusion of the blended learning.....	7
Table 2: Research instruments and data collection schedule.....	10
Table 3: Colander’s common sense approach to teaching .....	26
Table 4: Successful learning and elements of teaching .....	28
Table 5: Advantages of group work .....	36
Table 6: Lack of buy-in into e-learning .....	44
Table 7: Positive impact of technology on learning .....	47
Table 8: Teachers' roles changes .....	51
Table 9: Students' roles changes.....	52
Table 10: The study within the Interpretivist Paradigm. ....	63
Table 11: Linking characteristics of a case study to this research .....	68
Table 12: Qualitative vs. Quantitative research .....	71
Table 13: Data collection instruments, target groups and dates. ....	72
Table 14: Summary of categories .....	86
Table 15: Categories and key words: Lecturer Interaction.....	88
Table 16: Categories and key words: Peer Interaction .....	116
Table 17: Categories and key words: Content interaction.....	134
Table 18: Negative experiences.....	153
Table 19: Large enrolment and ways to overcome the “Three Big Issues” ..	178
Table 20: Goals for educators integrated with Ekn 124 .....	179

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1: Levels of student engagement and student activity. ....	27
Figure 2: Channels of Interaction.....	30
Figure 3: Modes of e-learning .....	40
Figure 4: Problems and possible solutions .....	55
Figure 5: Conceptual Framework.....	57
Figure 6: Placing the research within the four paradigms .....	64
Figure 7: Research instruments within the structured/unstructured continuum. .....	72
Figure 8: Invitation to the focus group meeting of the students in Group 2. ....	75
Figure 9: Students' perceptions about the usefulness of the peer discussions. .....	133
Figure 10: Hours spent on study material. ....	136
Figure 11: Students' perceptions about the usefulness of the quizzes .....	145
Figure 12: Levels of learning.....	146
Appendix 1 .....	203
Appendix 2.....	205
Appendix 3.....	207
Appendix 4.....	209



## Definitions of key concepts and abbreviations

**Asynchronous:** “Designating processes or information exchanges that do not occur simultaneously. For example, e-mail is a form of asynchronous interpersonal communication, because the sending and receiving parties are not communicating at the same time” (Gartner, p.28).

**CC:** Computer conferencing

**CIE:** Computer Integrated Education

**EKN 124:** Economics First-year course, second semester

**HE:** Higher Education

**HSRC:** Human Sciences Research Council

**ICT:** Information and communication technologies

**LMS:** (learning management system) “A full infrastructure on which e-learning can be built and delivered” (Garner, p.228).

**Synchronous:** Having a constant time interval between successive bits, characters or events. Synchronous transmission uses no redundant information to identify the beginning and end of characters, and is faster and more efficient than asynchronous transmission, which uses start and stop bits” (Gartner, p. 431).

**NQF:** National Qualifications Framework

**TC:** Traditional Classroom: “a learning environment where most interaction takes place by speaking and listening, though it may be supplemented by writing and reading from a blackboard or from ‘handouts” (Hiltz, 1994, p. 6).

**Tutors:** Senior (usually post-graduate) students in economics who assist lecturer in the online environment.

**UFS:** University of the Free State

**VC:** Virtual Classroom: “is a teaching and learning environment located within a computer mediated communication system” (Hiltz, 1994, p. 3).

**WebCT:** World Wide Web Course Tools