

Air Classes from Britain

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During the epidemic, students from the School of Earth Sciences and Engineering of Nanjing University were enjoying a feast of knowledge on the application of statistics and data analysis in the field of earth sciences.

Online teaching without borders

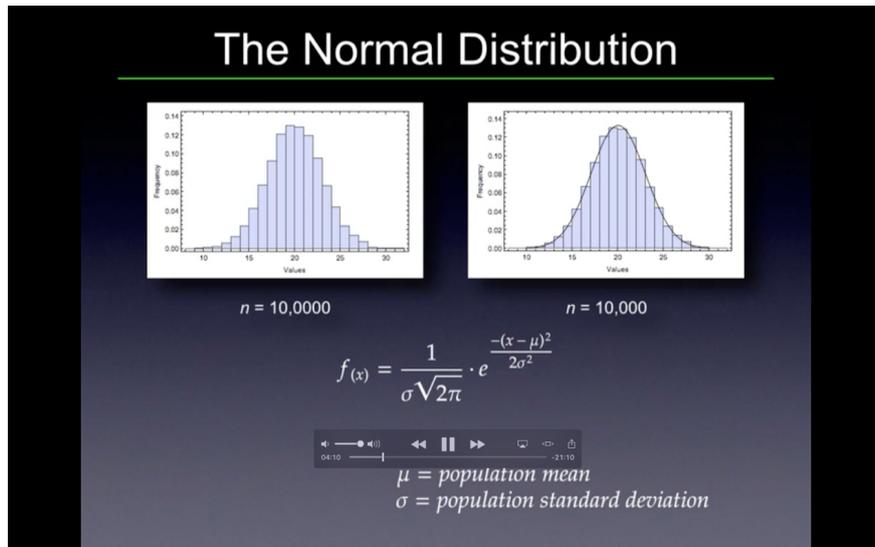
Statistic and Data Analysis in Earth Science is an elective course in English taught by the Institute of Geosciences, taught by Professor Norman Macleod from the United Kingdom . The main content of the course is to apply statistics and data analysis to various fields of earth science, and provide professional methodological guidance for students.

Professor Norman MacLeod was hired by Nanjing University last year to come to China and is the first full-time foreign professor at NTU. Prior to teach South, he worked at the University of Michigan (University of Michigan) , Princeton University (Princeton University) held academic positions, and has held important positions in the London Natural History Museum.



The professor is preparing courses for the students

Because he is in the UK and has an 8 -hour time difference with China , Professor Norman decided to use the screen recording method to give lectures to ensure that students can listen to the lectures according to the original class time. Always instructional videos every Friday morning 7 Dian predictable, never been late.

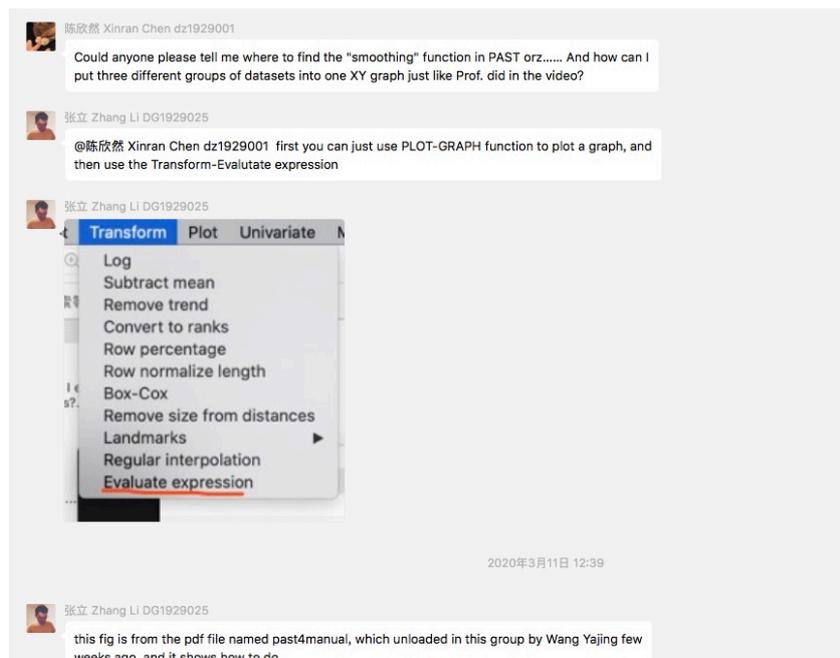


Screenshot of the course teaching video

Reversible online teaching

Since it was the first full English lecture, many originally familiar professional academic vocabulary became a big obstacle for students. Some students encountered problems when watching the first course video. A sophomore once told the course assistant that he had doubts about his ability to digest this course. After receiving the feedback, Professor Norman immediately encouraged everyone to overcome difficulties and ask questions in the WeChat group of the course, and then the teaching assistant also communicated with the students and suggested to watch the teaching video repeatedly. The students did not choose to give up when they encountered problems, but kept on e-mail communication with the professors to ask questions in a timely manner. As can be seen from the course work, as the progress of teaching continues, everyone's learning quality is also improving.

In addition to the active help of teachers and teaching assistants to students, the exchange and mutual assistance between students on the course content is also very enthusiastic. Because there is Professor Norman in the WeChat group, everyone very consciously insists on using English to communicate and interact in the group to express respect for the professor.



Mutual assistance among students in WeChat group

Although the familiarity with the application of Chinese software still needs to be improved, Professor Norman is willing to choose a platform that students find convenient for communication, such as using WeChat group as the main place for course discussion and question and answer. There were also students who were very enthusiastic about "instructing" Professor Norman how to use WeChat better, thus forming a good interaction between teachers and students.

Inspiration from another teaching method

Through this "forced" online teaching, Professor Norman received new inspiration. He believes that online teaching is not a new business, but it has not been widely used in traditional teaching systems. In fact, it can make up for some of the shortcomings of offline teaching. For example, face-to-face lectures are usually one-off. It is difficult for students to miss the key points to be remedied in the moment. It is very likely that they will forget to ask questions after class, resulting in the omission of knowledge points. The online teaching by recording screen has greater flexibility in the learning time. Students can look back at their own rhythm and study for many times. For teachers, in traditional offline classrooms, when teachers are unable to arrive for some reason, they usually invite other teachers to teach on their behalf. However, the difference in style and rhythm will also cause students to have a fault on the overall content of the course. In this case, they can make up for it by recording the screen in advance, so as to ensure the normal teaching progress of the course is uninterrupted.

Thanks to the serious responsibility of Professor Norman and the teaching assistants, as well as the students' active search for mutual help, the quality of the Statistic and Data Analysis in Earth Science courses is getting better. In this course, students gain not only the accumulation and development of knowledge, but also the cultural exchange between China and the West. While improving language skills and professional knowledge, I also learned to respect and tolerate other cultures.

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