

State College of Florida—Manatee/Sarasota and InQuizitive for American History



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Course Materials: *America: The Essential Learning Edition*,
Volume 2 and InQuizitive

Background

American History, 1865 to Present is offered in a 16-week online format and is capped at twenty-five students. The course is listed at the freshman level and is predominantly taken by non-majors as a way of fulfilling the social sciences general education requirement. Before using InQuizitive, I assigned multiple choice quizzes, three unit tests (divided evenly across the semester) and a comprehensive final exam paper. I assigned InQuizitive activities in Fall 2015 to replace the weekly multiple choice quizzes.

Course Challenges

There are several major challenges I face when teaching my Introduction to American History course. The first is difficulty in getting students, many of whom see history as a boring series of people, places, and things that are not especially relevant to their modern lives, engaged with the material. The second challenge is getting students to complete the reading before we cover it in class (or online), which is a more effective way to learn the material than reading all assigned reading/cramming before the exam. The final challenge is finding a way to motivate students to put in the time needed to really learn the material. At my institution many students work at least twenty hours a week, while some have full-time jobs and families.

Implementation

I worked with my Norton representative to integrate InQuizitive into State College of Florida's Canvas learning management system. This enabled single sign-on between Canvas and InQuizitive for students and automatic transfer of grades from InQuizitive to my Canvas gradebook. This saved me a considerable amount of course management time and was fantastic.

I used InQuizitive in place of the weekly multiple choice quizzes used in previous semesters. Each chapter's InQuizitive assignment was worth roughly 2% of students' overall grade (so 30% total for all InQuizitive assignments) and had to be completed before the assignment's due date. This ensured that no single InQuizitive assignment was worth too much, so that it didn't take away from the formative aspect of the assignment, while still making the total of all work completed in InQuizitive worth enough that students would need to do them on-time.

As the class was offered online, I often situated the weekly InQuizitive assignment to be due after the online narrated PowerPoints for the topic but before we engaged in discussion boards on the same material. I found this placement ideal for assessing what they'd learned from the chapter and narrated PowerPoints, but still allowing the class discussion to benefit from the reinforcement that InQuizitive provides.

COURSE AT A GLANCE

- Introduction to American History
- Taken by broad range of majors
- Taught online

Results

Student Performance

In addition to adding InQuizitive to my course in Fall 2015, I changed textbooks and re-worked a number of assessments. This makes it difficult to offer a quantitative comparison of student performance as compared to previous semesters.

However, I can provide qualitative evidence that InQuizitive improved student performance and believe that the system helped my students learn and retain class content. One of the biggest issues I have had is getting students to read the textbook in time for our discussion of that chapter—so many seem to prefer to read everything two nights before the exam. With InQuizitive, students are incentivized to read the chapter by the due date that I set in the system and it showed in the quality of their work in our online discussions. On average, students spent 60 minutes a week completing InQuizitive quizzes, with 92% of students completing the chapter quiz by the deadline (4% were submitted late and 4% never completed). That students would spend this long on the quizzes and still have positive things to say about how fun they found InQuizitive (see student feedback section) is a great sign.

Student Survey Results

Students completed a survey towards the end of the semester, with 24 of my 25 students responding to the anonymous survey:

SURVEY QUESTION	RESPONSES
Do you think InQuizitive helped you learn the material from the textbook?	80% of students said yes.
Do you prefer InQuizitive assignments to our previous standard multiple choice quizzes?	88% of students said yes.
Do you recommend that I continue to use InQuizitive in future semesters?	92% of students said yes.

In the open-ended portion of the survey, students repeatedly highlighted that they found InQuizitive fun, that they were engaged by the interactive question types and nature of the program, and that they felt the formative aspects of InQuizitive (the feedback as well as being able to continue to answer questions until my due dates) helped them learn.

Instructor Feedback

I am very happy with experience with InQuizitive. With LMS integration, InQuizitive automatically reported the students' grades to my gradebook and allowed me to seamlessly provide a small credit incentive to ensure students completed InQuizitive assignments. I could tell from their work and participation in our online discussions that students were learning the material better. As an added bonus, InQuizitive provides detailed assessment feedback, including breakdowns by textbook learning objective/student learning outcome. This proved to be a blessing in reporting assessment data to the college's Assessment Committee and dramatically simplified a task that I otherwise dread doing.

As a lifelong gamer, I found the principles in InQuizitive to be the same that have always kept me saying "just one more game..." InQuizitive is fun, interactive, and allows you to fail and learn from your mistakes until you succeed. It gives students intrinsic motivation to learn the material by providing them an enjoyable platform on which to do so.

SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

- 10,000 students
- Wide range of academic preparedness among students
- Demographically diverse student population
- Class size ranges from 25 to 50

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