



Revel's Instructor Resources Make Student Engagement Easier

Spotlight on: Dr. Maldonado-Devincci

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (North Carolina A&T) is the number one public historically black college and university (HBCU) in the country and is located in Greensboro, North Carolina. The approximate enrollment at North Carolina A&T is 13,300, with 89% of the student body comprising underrepresented minorities. It offers a total of 54 undergraduate degrees and 41 graduate degrees.

Dr. Antoinette Maldonado-Devincci, instructor at North Carolina A&T since 2016, currently uses Revel in her Biological Psychology (PSYC 361) course. She chose to use the Revel text because she liked that the content was more appropriate for her students as it was less technical than what had previously been used. The content was also current, which she appreciated. For example, the book contains a chapter on the emerging area of scientific research known as epigenetics. While Dr. Maldonado-Devincci chose this particular book for the content, she finds Revel's features and resources valuable for her and her students.

According to Dr. Maldonado-Devincci, Revel's interactivity and variety of resources resonate with students' different learning styles, leading to more engagement. "I feel like it's MindTap on steroids. I really appreciate that with all its resources, I can get students to engage with the content." Dr. Maldonado-Devincci chooses to provide various modalities for her students, so they have the opportunity to earn grades outside of testing. "That is why I employ Revel and their iterative approach to learning and the bite sized chunks. I appreciate the in-chapter quizzes that allow them to answer the question and be able to try again. I believe this approach is less punitive than a single exam would be able to capture."

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Another highlight of Revel for Dr. Maldonado-Devincci are the shared writing assignments. She utilizes these in lieu of discussion boards because, again, it takes the weight of grading off her, but students are still getting the opportunity for peer interaction. “Really, I rely pretty much exclusively on Revel content for this class.”

As the instructor, Dr. Maldonado-Devincci utilizes a lot of what Revel has to offer. She finds it to be a comprehensive solution that helps her save time and effort when it comes to sourcing content and grading. “I appreciate being able to assign all the content and quizzes, so they get more interaction with the material without overloading me when it comes to the grading aspect of it. That has really been the deciding factor for me in using Revel. Honestly, any time there is a new course that I am designing, I will see if there is a Revel text over Cengage or any others.”

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For Dr. Maldonado-Devincci, the most beneficial aspect of Revel has been the instructor resources, such as PowerPoint slides and test bank questions. The easy creation and redesign of courses and course management are extremely helpful for both frequent users of Revel and adjuncts who are new to the course. “I need the full package out the door and Revel gives me that.”

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The instructor’s resources allow Dr. Maldonado-Devincci to build a solid foundation for the course, which frees up time for her to develop additional content to cater to the way she wants to engage her students. “I always look for the Cadillac version of something because that will give me all the bells and whistles that I need to be able to use and be very proficient in the course. If I don’t have the instructor resources, then I am spending all my time just reading the book and tailoring the course to this particular text. I don’t have enough time, then, to actually do the engagement aspect that makes the course more beneficial to the students. Having those resources as a baseline and then elevating from there is why I keep coming back to Revel, over and over again.”

The support Pearson offered was also really valuable for Dr. Maldonado-Devincci, especially when it came to creating her first course and addressing any hiccups throughout the first semester. “(My rep) is the best! She was boots on the ground, always there, always interacting with us. It was really, really fantastic to have that kind of presence here. Just really phenomenal.”