Supporting Student Success
Merrimack College
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One Best Thing: Using Electronic Lecture Notes with the Notability App

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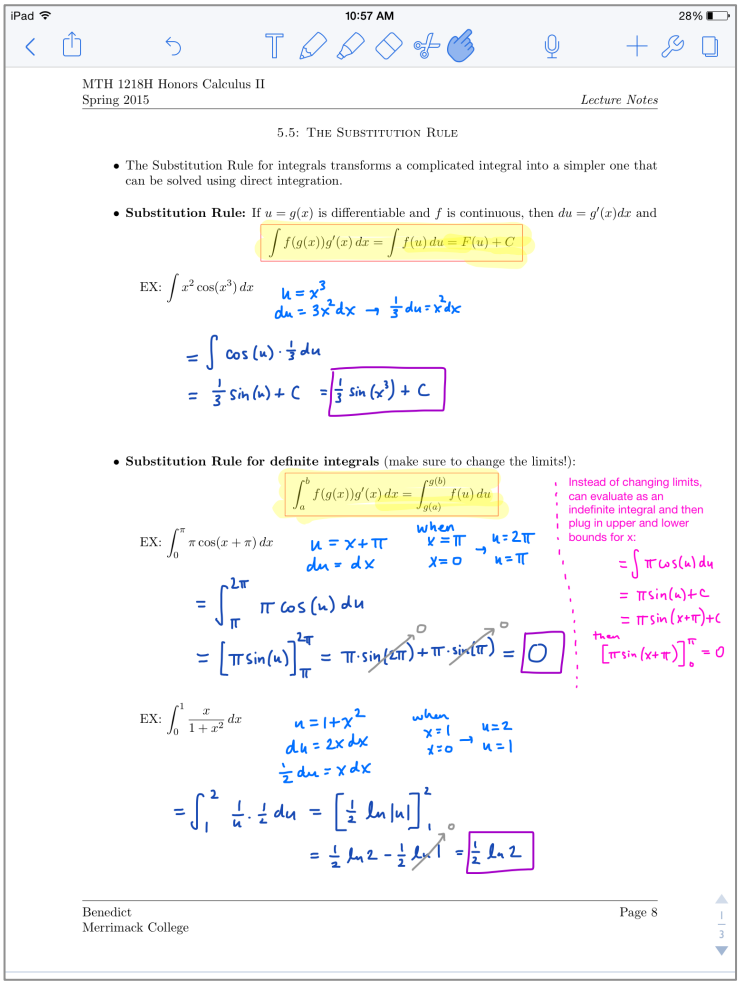
What:

- A pdf file of course lecture notes can be viewed with Notability, an iOS app for note-taking and annotation of pdf, doc and ppt files (Import from Google Drive or Dropbox, or directly from email; annotated files can be exported the same way.)
- Notes can be projected with AirPlay and Apple TV from an iPad display onto a whiteboard or screen in front of the class.
- Students can use the app to add their own notes to the pdf document and to solve problems during class and while studying, utilizing the features of the app:
  - Colored pens and highlighters
  - Graphing paper option, among other templates
  - Insert bookmarks, voice memos, photos, figures, web clips, and sticky notes



Why:

- Too much class time spent in silence simply copying down notes from the board.
- Allows for the delivery of course content despite classroom shortcomings (i.e. lack of board space).
- Easier to update notes from semester to semester and to prepare for each class.

The result:

- More class time was spent on problem solving and discussion, and a wider range of topics and problems were covered.
- Students appreciated having a complete set of notes available.
- Some students chose to take notes the traditional way, with paper and a notebook rather than with the iPad, but they all used the notes as a reference.

* A screenshot of a page of lecture notes viewed in the Notability app, with examples completed and marked up in the way a student might add their notes to the document.