Summary of Findings
What ‘best practices’ should be retained and what needs to change?

Based on information collected using mixed methods (consultations with former TAs, interviews of faculty members, documentary research and fieldwork) the project provided valuable insights about the interplay of on-line activities and meetings, lectures, tutorials and labs. Some highlights follow:

· Weekly team meetings are the most effective collaboration method;
· Extra technical training sessions offered by the Lab instructor are needed for new team members (i.e. on transcription and statistical software);
· Evaluate knowledge claims supported by statistical data and training in statistical data collection and analysis. Lectures, labs and tutorials introduce students to the logical foundations of empirical research and guide them in the development of practical skills in methods.

For this course we have designed learning activities that depend on a collaborative approach to teaching. The teaching team consults in weekly meetings.

Integrated lab and tutorial activities provide students access to state-of-the-art technologies and opportunities to gain practical experience in contemporary research methods tailored to employment prospects for communication majors.

Next Steps
Many changes have been introduced in the course design, such as posting detailed drafts of lab and tutorial lesson plans on Canvas prior to the beginning of the course and developing more learning resources for students in a re-organization of modules on Canvas.

Future plans include development of:
· An exit survey for TAs;
· A more extensive tutorial and lab activity bank to enhance creative opportunities for TAs;
· A searchable quiz question bank;
· Scheduled technical skill training sessions for new team members;
· Access to specialized software in TA offices.

By creating accessible ways for teams with changing memberships to work together collaboratively using meetings and features of the online learning environment on Canvas we developed more support materials for both students and teaching team members to expand possibilities for recruitment of new teaching team members while continuing to build a coherent vision of this core course.

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