

University of Waterloo Teaching & Learning Conference  
Opportunities & New Directions  
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# Making teaching and learning visible in Economics honours essay writing

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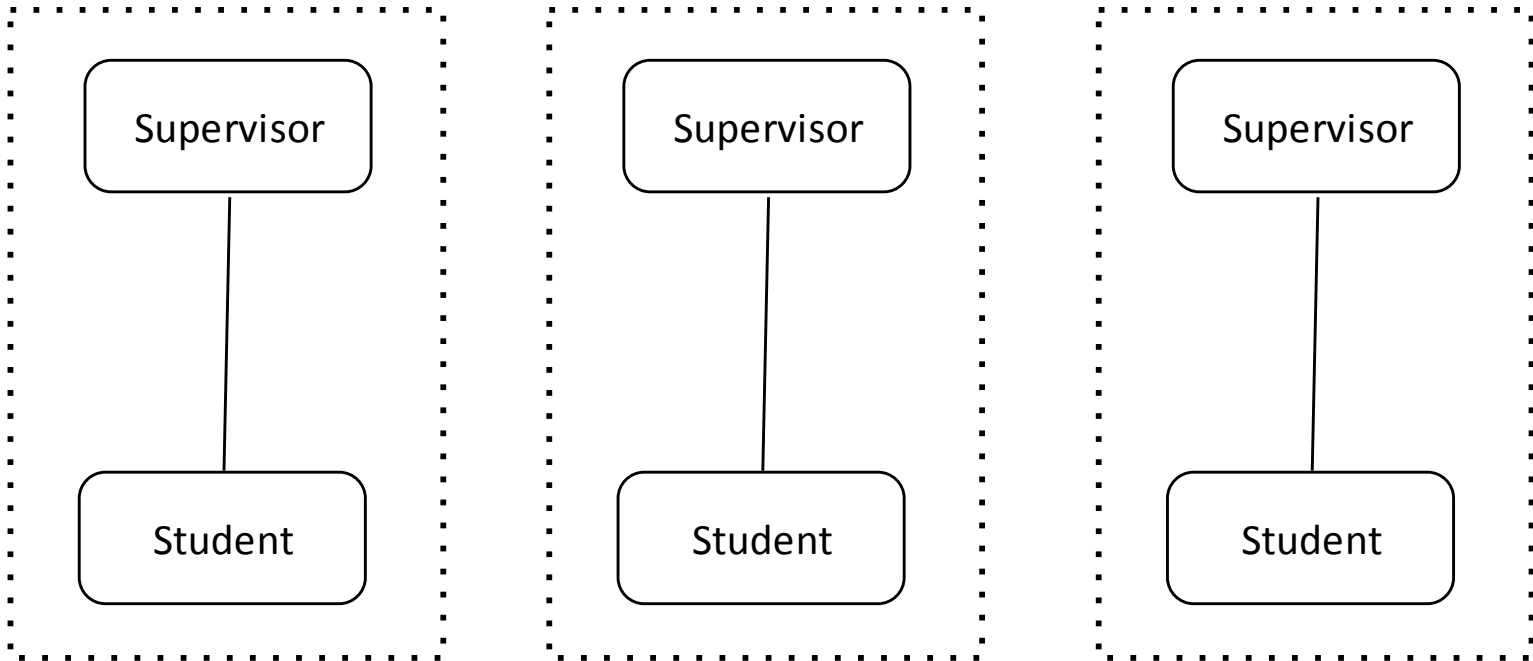
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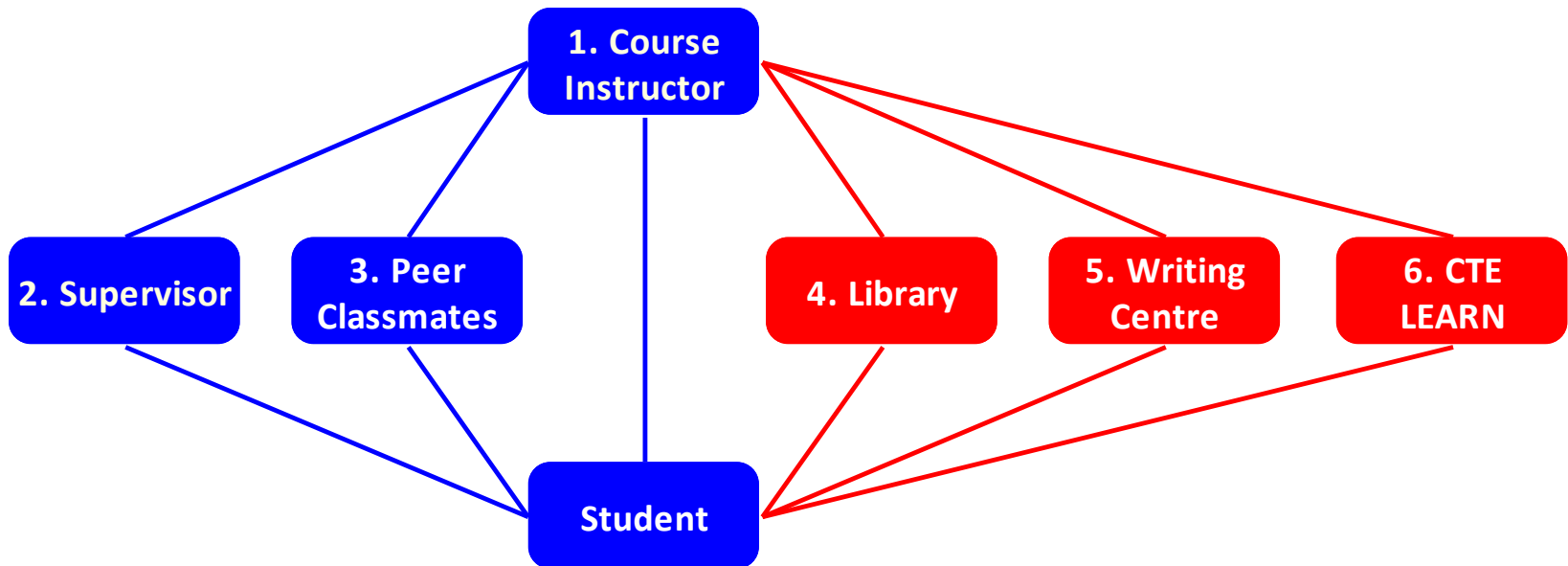
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# Economics Honours Essays —The Old Way

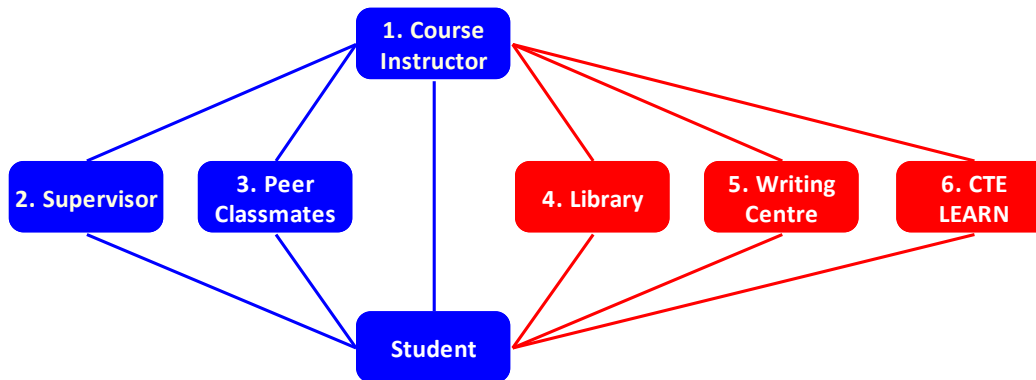


# A hybrid teaching & learning environment for writing (economics) honours essays



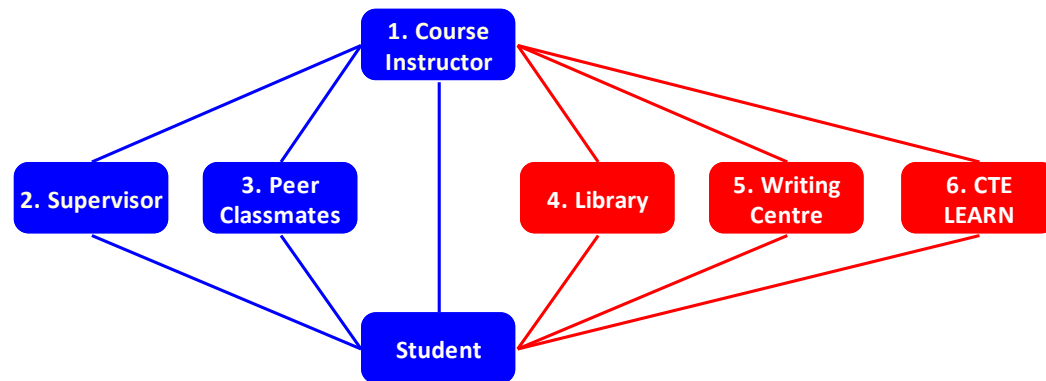
# 1. Course Instructor

- ensure that students meet deadlines
- liaison between students and supervisors (progress report)
- coordinate institutional units (services) and students (needs)
- support students (advising, guidance, troubleshoot)



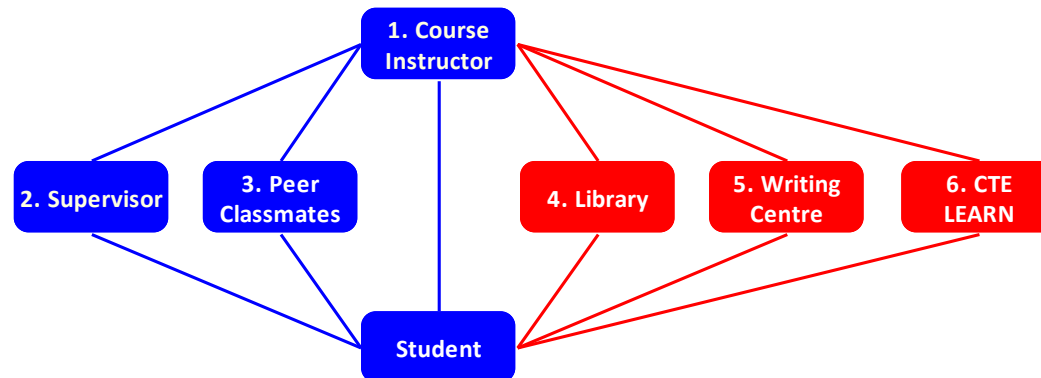
## 2. Supervisor

- used to take care of all aspects of training students (content, format, references, commenting, copy editing, etc.)
- now focus more on content and less secondary skill training
- aware of the skill training all students received (not just their own students)



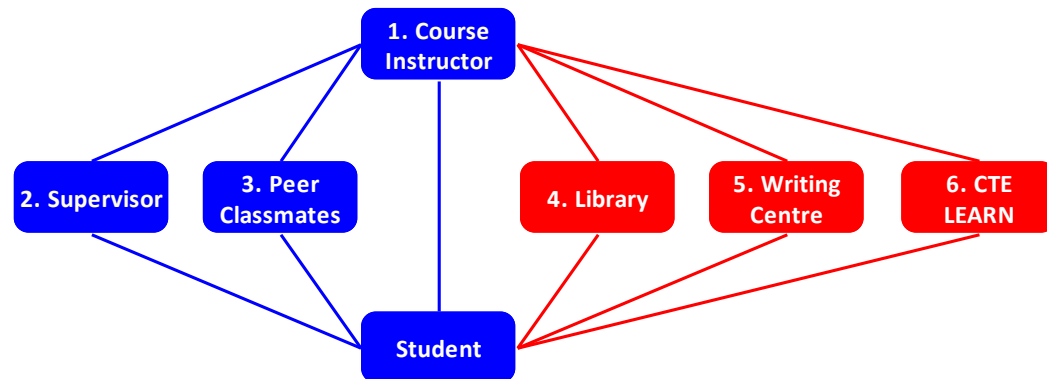
### 3. Peer classmates

- students conditioned to writing exams and depending on instructors for answers
- seldom know classmates beyond close circles
- opportunities to bond with peers
- opportunities to learn giving & taking constructive criticisms
- opportunities to learn creative writing, critical thinking

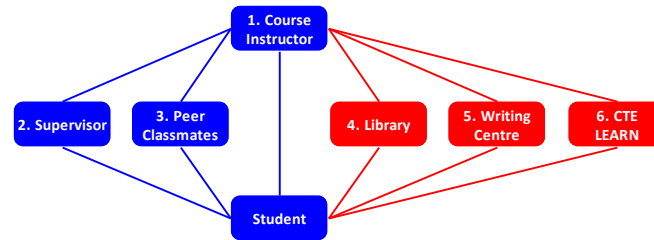


## 4. CTE/LEARN

- academic integrity development: detection software Turnitin
- students use it as a learning tool (like spell checker) during the writing cycle
- academic integrity is new
- students: more conscious and anxious to avoid it as much as possible



## 5. Library

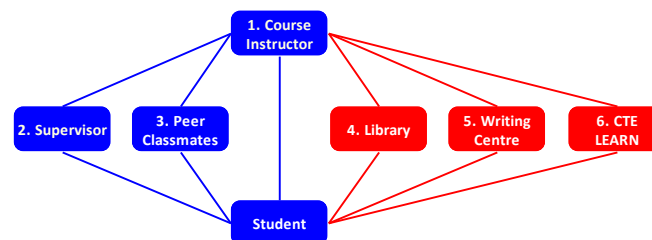


- Library support
  - Generally initiated by student, sometimes course instructor/prof
  - Services include research help desk, library liaison, consultation services, instructions sessions, etc.
- ECON 472
  - Librarian in the classroom
  - Provide hands-on lab sessions on library skills and resources specific to students' needs (e.g., EconLit, RefWorks)
  - With connection being made, students approach library for support



## 6. Writing Centre

- Writing Centre support
  - Initiated by student
  - Services include appointments, drop-ins, and workshops
- ECON 472
  - Writing Centre in the classroom
  - Workshops connected to curriculum and project
  - Services specific to discipline and genre
  - Makes students' writing process visible
  - Facilitates critical thinking, deep learning, metacognitive skills



## Challenges ahead

- how to assess student writing

BioTAP (Biology Thesis Assessment Protocol)

- how to design/modify student evaluation

for hybrid interactive teaching and writing (current questionnaires for traditional lecture-based teaching)

- how to help student learn avoid “last minute” syndrome

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