The virtual instructor: Strategies for teaching success

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Welcome virtual instructors!

Today’s presentation will cover:

- Brief overview of online learning at Kent State.
- Top 5 strategies of successful instructors in an online learning environment.
- Technology tools that will help you incorporate these strategies into courses and daily life.
- Useful technology tools for general use.
Brief overview of online learning

• Various types (100% online asynchronous, 100% online with some synchronous components, hybrid courses).
• Platform – Blackboard Learn [BBLearn].
• Kent State HelpDesk student/instructor support (available 24/7).
• Course requirements (assignments, chats, discussions, virtual office hours, etc.).
Strategy 1: Planning your course schedule

• Create a structured, daily/weekly schedule.
• Consistency counts.
• Emphasize course requirements and how often they must be completed (e.g. twice-weekly discussion posts, etc.).
• *Plan your work, and work your plan!*
Strategy 1: Technology tools

- Planboard (www.planboardapp.com) - http://youtu.be/PRXEG-rAFic

- Flashnotes (http://www.flashnotes.com)

- TED Ed (ed.ted.com) – (ed.ted.com/tour)
Strategy 2: Time management

• Balance is key.

• Asynchronous courses require extra rigor – Respond in a timely fashion to student questions (e.g. 24-hour turnaround).

• Emphasize virtual office hours for lengthy student questions/concerns.

• Do not procrastinate with grading.
Strategy 2: Technology tools

- RescueTime - https://www.rescuetime.com/
- Google Calendar - https://www.google.com/calendar/
- Wunderlist - https://www.wunderlist.com/
Strategy 3: Staying on task

• Build an expectation of structure early in the course, and then emphasize maintenance of structure, both for students and yourself.

• Communicate concerns/clarifications with students ASAP (especially in terms of online ‘attendance’ through course reports).

• Consider posting announcements/screen captures to clarify ‘muddy point’ questions.
Strategy 3: Technology tools

• Faststone - www.faststone.org/download.htm

• Jing - http://www.techsmith.com/jing.html

• Google Drive - http://drive.google.com
Strategy 4: Communication/interaction

- Occurs in three ways in an online course: You/students, you/content, you/design.
- Communicate/interact with students throughout course to increase sense of engagement/social presence for students.
- Practice good (n)etiquette, and encourage your students to do the same.
- Again – timely response to student questions.
Strategy 4: Technology tools

- Google Drive - http://drive.google.com
- Dropbox - www.dropbox.com
- Doodle – www.doodle.com
- Piazza - www.piazza.com
Strategy 5: Support and assessment

- Concerns are best resolved if addressed early – go-to technology assistants (Helpdesk, etc).
- Many F2F considerations apply online as well – consider university accessibility of content.
- Who is your mentor/supervisor?
- Keep informed of your course statistics (e.g. who is participating, when, how often, etc.).
- Create multiple assessment points.
Strategy 5: Technology tools

- BBLearn – learn.kent.edu
- KSU HelpDesk – support.kent.edu
- Classmarker - www.classmarker.com
- Polleverywhere - www.polleverywhere.com
General technology tools [1]

Editing and Bibliography

• Texmaker The universal LaTeX editor - www.xm1math.net/texmaker/

Presentation and Design

• Gimp (www.gimp.org)
• Prezi (www.prezi.com)
General technology tools [2]

Online Courses
• OpenCourseWare - [http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm](http://ocw.mit.edu/index.htm)
• Academic Earth - [http://academicearth.org/](http://academicearth.org/)
• Khan Academy - [https://www.khanacademy.org/](https://www.khanacademy.org/)

Books and notes
• Chegg ([www.chegg.com](http://www.chegg.com))

File Encryption tools
• The GNU Privacy Guard ([www.gnupg.org](http://www.gnupg.org))
• 7-Zip ([www.7-zip.org/](http://www.7-zip.org/))
Final thoughts

• Teaching Scenario - Social Media
  – What do you think?
  – Any other thoughts/comments?
Questions?

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