Activity 1: Explore & Share

You have been provided the access to the demo module of BOT2011c: Plant Diversity course at the University of Florida. Please use the QR code or the URL to access the course.

https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/358873

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to explore the course shell on your own and think about the general structure of the course itself.

Process:

1. Take 10 minutes to navigate the module page, activities, and assignments
2. While exploring, think about the following:
    a. Does the module page provide a sequence of instructional practices?
    b. The assignments and the assessments are varied and provide multiple opportunities to track learning.
    c. Text-based and other media materials together are presented.
    d. Learning activities provide opportunities for interaction and active learning.
    e. Students are encouraged to reflect and practice.
    f. Simulations and lab works promote cognitive engagement.
3. Share your thoughts with the whole group.

Activity 2: Which One?

You are provided the name of 10 online instructional practices grouped into 5 method categories.

Purpose: To rank methods according to their relative effect on student achievement from the most effective to the least effective.

Process:

1. Form a dyad with someone in the room.
2. Individually, take 2 minutes to think about the methods. Answer: Which ones affect student achievement the most and the least in an online undergraduate course?

Methods	Instructional Practices	Short Description
Content delivery	Viewing video lectures	Professionally-produced, instructor-led video materials
	Reading the textbook	A short textbook covering many of the main concepts
Practice tests	Module quizzes	Six-item multiple choice tests that students take up to 3 times for practice at the end of each module.
Collaborative work	Group work assignments	4 structured collaborative activities in which students work in small groups to accomplish multiple tasks
	Discussions	6 small groups that allow students to debate controversial Botany topics and paradoxes
Independent work	Individual assignments	18 short, quick-check activities in which students explore a Botany concept or process
	Peer-reviewed activities	5 short activities through which students post their response to a video or a case followed by peer reviews
	Reflections	4 self-assessments of student learning about an article
Storytelling and simulation	GoFlag activities	3 cyber-learning activities around socially relevant themes and real-world connections of plants
Hands-on labs Labs	Labs	11 hands-on learning experiences, promoting skills such as observing and drawing

3. In 2-3 minutes, work in pairs to discuss and exchange what you have thought. Answer: Why do you think that method is effective?
4. Attend Poll Everywhere. On your own, rank the five methods from the most effective to the least effective on improving student achievement.
5. See the results from statistical analysis.