Transiti-\-ing to online for non-tradi-\-onal
students in Biology & Business Courses

Meet Our Students

Mostly…
• Commuters: ~90%
• 77% transfer from 2 yr colleges
• 86%: people of color
• Working adults & Parents (single moms)
• Women: 69%
• Average Age: 32 yrs
• Financial Aid: 99%
• First time college

Outliers…
• Residential (~300)
• 18 - 19 yrs old
• Athletes
• Graduate students/ second degrees

Two Courses Profiled:
Intro Biology (Hybrid)

IT'S HARD BUT YOU CAN DO IT!

Introduce Growth Mindset

• Dr. Carol Dweck: The Power of Believing you Can Improve

Give Chances to Practice It!

• Formative online quizzes replace 1 exam
• Revisit fuzzy concepts for points

INTEGRATE HANDS-\-ON

“OMG MY PLANTS GREW SO FAST!”

The WOW factor
• Learning occurs when it’s fun
• Best if a new, real world skill… Gardening!

Online supports enhance learning
• Timelapse photography: twirling seedlings
• How do I make this graph again?
DO This

Mandate online reading & comprehension
• Submit answers to Re-Cap questions
• Pts awarded for Adaptive learning quizzes
Build community/ X.C.
• Field trip to Garfield Park Conservatory

. . . Not This

Expect same chapter “coverage” as f2f
• Excerpts!
Activities that are fully f2f
• Dropped geologic timeline
• Kept Ecological Footprint

Two Courses Profiled:
Consumer Behavior (Online)

Goal: Active Engagement of Students
• Design learning experiences to develop skills used in real world
• Simons (2011) Understand how we perceive the world in the same way, differently.

Apply It!
• Students identified one political ad with which they disagreed (from the Trump, Clinton or Sanders’ campaigns)
• Then interviewed 3 people who were different from them
  e.g., if the student was African American Millennial, tasked to talk to 3 people who were not African American and not Millennial
• Assessed their reactions to the ad

Excerpts of Students’ Posts

• Student Post: “[the assigned readings] … outline different perspectives and perceptions …I began to realize …most of the people I interviewed feel the same way I do, but their reasoning was different than mine.”

• Peer 1 Response: “... your post ... really hits on the point of how different experiences influence(s) perception.”

• Peer 2 Response: “… the fact that you have a friend who is a Muslim and another who is Mexican is something this country needs more of. Diversity breeds inclusion, and … is exactly what opens people’s minds.”
Excerpts of Students’ Posts cont.

Student Post:
“For my third interview, I bent the rules… and interviewed a friend… I wanted to find out how another young black woman would respond to the ad… I was surprised to find… she supported Trump’s stance… Sensing my shock, she explained… after the Pulse nightclub shooting… Her proximity to the attack coupled with the fact that our interview was so soon after the event make me believe that her true opinions are layered beneath her surfaced feelings of fear and anguish.”

Students applied concepts of perception, learning, memory & attitudes to a real world example.

Their discussions included in-depth insights and a new understanding & appreciation for the differences that exist based on experiences (= what we have learned) and perceptions (= what we see).

DO This . . . Not This

Actively engage students
- Design learning experiences that develop skills used in the real world.
- Encourage students to apply course concepts to real world examples.

Encourage students to discuss with one another
- Fosters in-depth insights, new understandings based on individual experiences and perceptions.

Structure the course with same format as a f2f

Use assignments that do not foster exchange among students

Ask students to memorize and repeat without application
- Activities should apply key course concepts

Distance Education Committee & Office of Online Instruction and Instructional Technology

Encouraging Best Practices...

Distance Educa-tion Committee & Office of Online Instruction and Instructional Technology

Encouraging Best Practices…
Thank you!

Joni

Karel

Share: What is working for you?