INSTRUCTOR INNOVATIONS WITHIN A MASTER COURSE DESIGN STRATEGY

Michigan State University
School of Social Work

OLC INNOVATE
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Introductions

Presenter:

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Contributing Author:

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Background Notes

Project Beginning: Summer 2017

Transitioned two f2f courses to online courses while developing the new design model

- SW 812B - Theory
  - Three instructors
  - Six sections – 15 to 20 students each
  - Approximately 110 students total
- SW 842B – SW Practice Methods
  - Three instructors
  - Three sections – 18 to 23 students each
  - Approximately 63 students total

Consistent Structure and Naming Convention

- Course Home
  - Instructor Contact, Course Navigation information
- Welcome – Start Here
  - Instructor & Student Intros, Purpose and Course Structure
- Syllabus/Course Resources
  - Major Assignments, Technology Assistance
- General Discussion Forum
  - Course Q&A
- Modules 1-7 (summer session B - seven weeks)

Consistent Module Structure

- Module Introduction
  - Description, Learning Objectives, Overview
- Lecture/PowerPoint
  - Personal audio/video added by instructor after the Master Course is copied
- Readings and Materials
  - Documents, links, multimedia
- Assignments
  - Discussions, Writing Assignments, Quizzes
- Module Checklist

Quality Matters Informed

- 1.1 Instructions make clear how to get started…
  - Announcement on Course Home
- 1.2 Learners are introduced to the purpose …
  - "Purpose and Course Structure" in Welcome/Start Here
- 1.3 Communication expectations …
  - Netiquette info in Course Resources
- 1.4 Course and institutional policies …
  - "MSU Policies & Resources" sub-module
- 8.1 Course navigation facilitates ease of use.

(Template contributes up to 52 pts before content is added)

Improving the student learning experience-1

"The weekly folders were all very detailed and specific with introductions and expectations of what was to be completed each week. I especially appreciated the checklists in each module as I generally create weekly checklists in my planner."

Improving the student learning experience-2

"All of the assignments that were due in the corresponding week were all available and identifiable in that week's folder."

"Course content was laid out by week making it easy to see which assignments were due when."

"Everything needed for each week in ONE folder"

Subsequent Improvements to the Design

- Course Home – improved visual design
  - Banner, Dept Logo, and Twitter feed
- Module level images
  - pexels.com, MSU photos, photo credits included
- Full-semester templates
- Modules 1-14, Special Topic, Finals Week
  - Spring 16 wks, Summer 14 wks, Fall 15 wks
- Course Wrap-Up
  - Closure activity, course evaluation links

Improved Instructor Support & Resources

- (Embedded) Instructor Help Module
  - Semester Start Checklist, How-to resources
- Semester versions with pre-populated dates
  - Module start dates, Discussion due dates
  - Varied visual design, seasonal MSU photos
- Additional version with sub-modules
  - Readings & Materials
  - Assignments
- Time-saving features
  - Bulk offset dates, no internal fixed dates

Faculty Responses

"The design is easy to understand and makes intuitive sense. It provides consistency and students have told me that they find it easy to follow."

"The process was collaborative, and I learned a great deal about D2L in general during the process. It helped me to think about the student's perspective when it came to online teaching."

"I can't think of any real challenges in the process. I feel very positive about it."

Retaining Instructor Innovations – 1

Discussion Topic alternative - Google Docs

SW 822, Section 731, Spring 2018
Discussion Forum 1

Original post due by 11:55pm on Saturday, Jan 13th; response posts due by 11:55pm on Sunday, Jan 14th

Hello! My name is Tina Blaschke-Thompson and I am your instructor for this course, SW 822, Policy Advocacy. I have been working for the School of Social Work at MSU since 2006. I started out as a student doing marketing and recruitment for the Statewide Blended Program, one of the programs I currently coordinate (along with the Weekend Program).

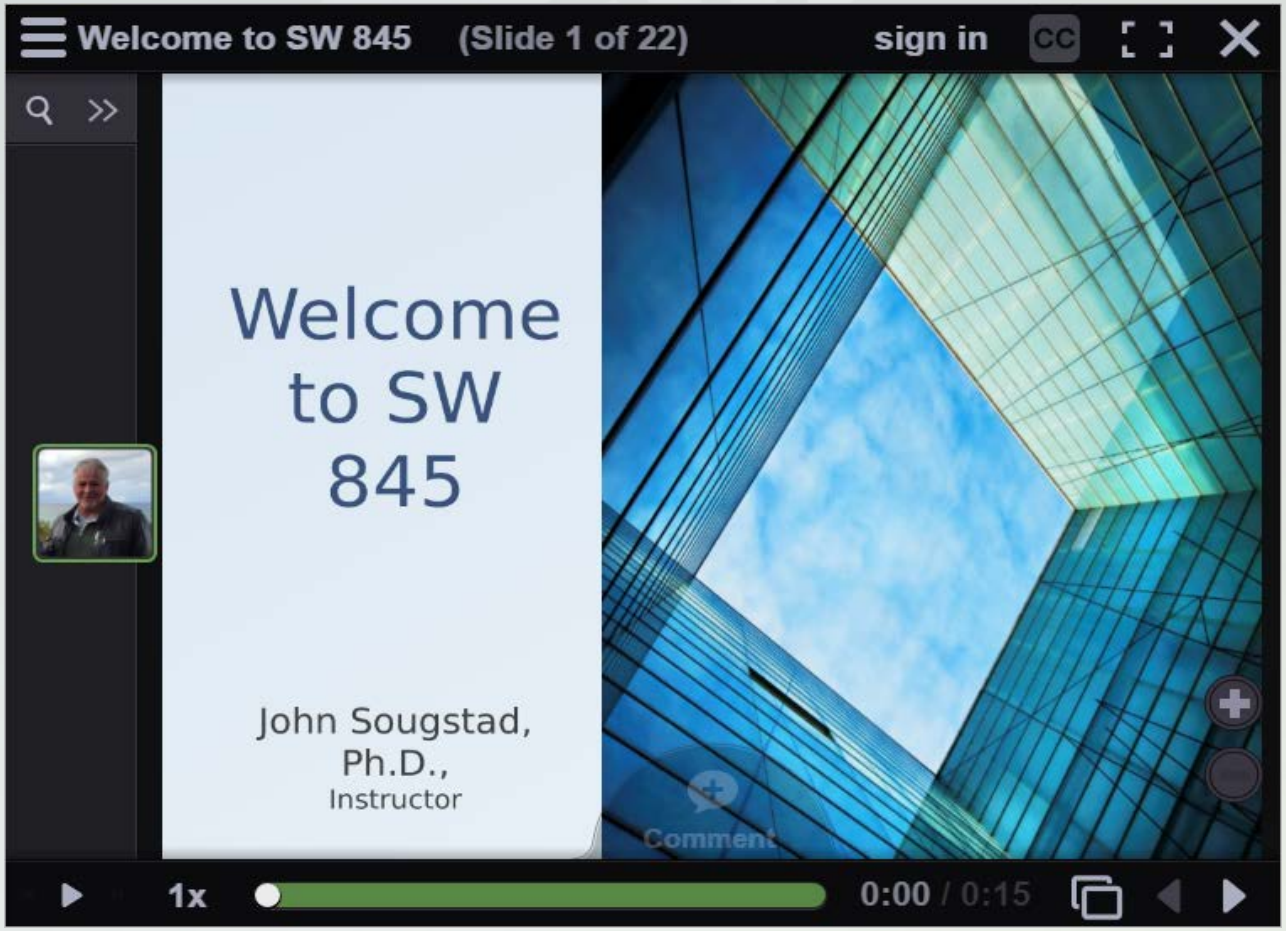
Before coming to MSU, I worked for the Student Counseling Center at SVSU, where I was in charge of a social norms campaign targeting high-risk drinking behaviors among students. While in the MSW program, I worked for the Ingham County Health Department as an Adolescent Health Education (AKA sex ed teacher), where I would go into middle schools and high schools in the Lansing area to talk about abstinence and safe sex practices (among many other topics) – we will discuss this more in a few weeks when we discuss the state of sex education in the U.S. (which is abysmal IMO…)

Hannah Mae ...
Jan 12, 2018

Hi Tina! I am currently do
placement at the SVSU c
center! I also have a lot o
with infant mental health
loved doing the home vis

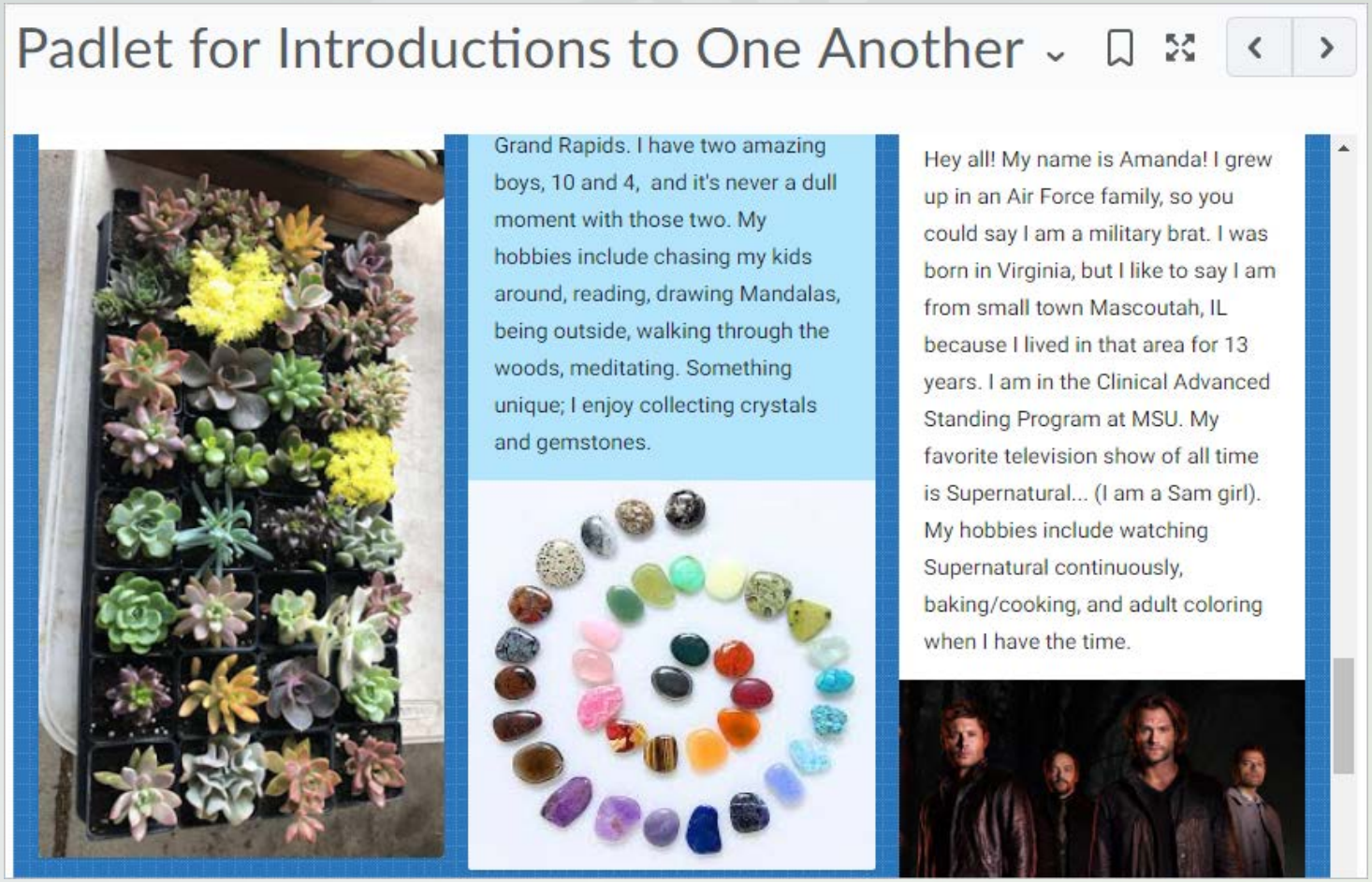
Retaining Instructor Innovations – 2

Discussion Topic/Lecture alternative - VoiceThread



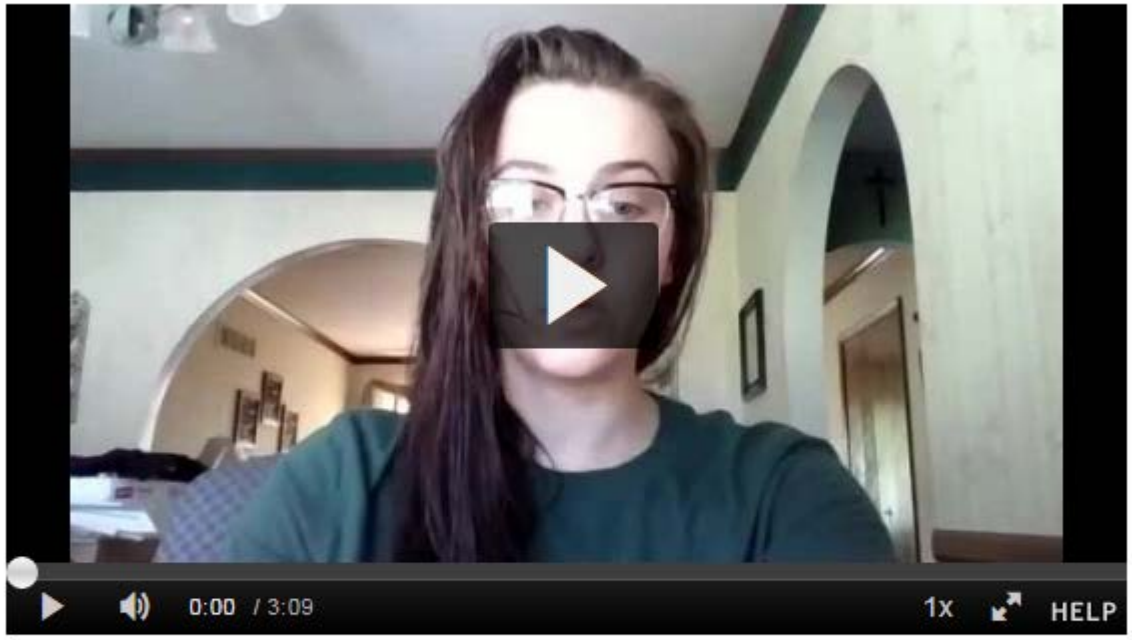
Retaining Instructor Innovations – 3

Student Introductions and Assignment - Padlet



Retaining Instructor Innovations – 4

Student Introductions and Assignment - Zoom video



5 Minute Reflection

Contribute Examples

bit.ly/2VkO7Wi

Retaining Instructor Innovations

Advantages

- Personalization
- Student engagement
- Variety and interest
- Comfort level with learned tools
- Use of existing content, less time-consuming than changing formats

Disadvantages

- Lack of consistency across courses
- One more thing for students to learn
- Accessibility issues
- Helpdesk support may be lacking for third-party technology tools

Current Challenges

- Accessibility
- Maintaining Master Courses
- Updating previously redesigned courses that are copied from semester to semester
- Faculty using Weeks vs Modules
- Rearranging Modules - Title and filename edits
- Re-use of other instructor's videos when copying a semester course

Questions?
Comments?

Contact Information

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