Teaching from a Distance
Strategies and Best Practices

The Learning Innovations Team
Today’s Objectives

• Define essential terms associated with distance delivery.
• Organize your online course space using best practices.
• Identify expectations to define and communicate in an online environment.
• Identify strategies to engage students in multiple ways.
• Locate resources for creating accessible online content.
Distance Delivery

Define essential terms associated with distance delivery.
Terms

• **Distance Delivery (a.k.a. Distance Learning):** A method of delivery that does not require in-person interactions.
  – **Asynchronous:** Students are engaged with the content at different times and locations.
  – **Synchronous:** Students are engaged with the content at the same time, but not necessarily the same location.

• **Learning Management System (LMS):** Where you will house your syllabus, course schedule, materials, and links.
  – Blackboard
  – Canvas
Organizing Your Course Space

Organize your online course space using best practices.
When Organizing Your Course Space

- Simple
- Consistent
- Concise
General Best Practices

• Limit scrolling
• Use folders
• Employ availability Dates
• Be consistent naming items
• Apply a consistent structure
Navigation: Simple

- Overview
- Announcements
- Schedule
- Blackboard Calendar
- Syllabus
- Contact Christie
- Course Content
  - Lessons
- Assignments
- Discussions
- Weekly Journal
- Teacher Resources
- Projects
  - Project 1: Peer Teaching
  - Project 2: Guest Speaker
- My Grades
- Tools
- Help

- 1. Proportional Reasoning and Class Introduction
- 2. Fractions and Rational Numbers
- 3. Relative Thinking and Measurement
- 4. Quantities and Covariation
- 5. Proportional Reasoning
Clear Expectations

Identify expectations to define and communicate in an online environment.
Communication Expectations

• Due Dates
• Feedback
  – When
  – Where
• Instructor availability
  – When
  – Where
Content Expectations

• Academic integrity
• Interaction and engagement
• Assignments
• Assessments
How to Communicate Expectations

• Syllabus statement
• Landing page of course space
• Announcements
• Q&A Discussion Board
• Clear instructions
• Rubrics
  – Assignments
  – Assessments
  – Interaction
• Model as much as you can
Engaging Students

Identify strategies to engage students in multiple ways.
Things to Consider

• What happens during “class time” in your classroom?
  – Lecture style
  – Interactive sessions
• How big is your class?
• How do students demonstrate mastery?
Options for Delivering Content

• Readings
• Videos
• Case studies
• Open Education Resources (OERs)
• Peer teaching
Options for Engaging with Students

• Meet synchronously via Zoom
  – Class
  – Office Hours
• Discussion Board
• Through feedback
• Group work
• Videos
• Questions for the Instructor Discussion
Example 1

- Meet synchronously to talk about what students need to accomplish that week and provide a portion of the week’s content.
- Post the rest of what students need during the week in the LMS.
- Be sure to provide a “Q&A” discussion forum for students to interact with you and their peers throughout the week.
Example 2

• Post all lesson content prior to meeting
  – Videos
  – Readings

• Meet synchronously for a Q&A session
  – Larger classes: meet with a subset of the class at a time
Example 3

• Post all lesson content prior to meeting
  – Videos
  – Readings
• Have students submit questions
• Meet synchronously
  – Brief Q&A
  – Engage in learning activities where students apply knowledge
Accessibility

Locate resources for creating accessible online content.
Addressing Accommodations

• Are you aware of any disability accommodations your students may have?
• What will you do to address them in the digital environment?

For questions regarding student accommodations, contact your WSU campus Access Center directly.

https://li.wsu.edu/teaching-tool-boxes/emergency-tool-kit-for-extended-distance-delivery/#supportingstudents

https://li.wsu.edu/teaching-tool-boxes/are-you-ready-for-distance-delivery/tips-for-creating-accessible-course-materials/
Making Content Accessible

To ensure that the diverse needs of our learners are met, we encourage you to proactively make as many of the documents and videos you post online accessible.

• If you would like general guidance and/or assistance, please contact us at aoi.li@wsu.edu.

• For any student with an alternative text accommodation, please contact your WSU Campus Access Center for assistance.

• For any student with an approved captioning or transcription accommodation, please contact Wendy Steele, Accessible Technology Manager, at wsteele@wsu.edu.
LEARNING INNOVATIONS

Contact us

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li.wsu.edu

Let’s explore the possibilities together!