Strategies to Strengthen Online Course Instruction

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Where is Online Learning Going?

- 66% of Higher Ed Inst say that online learning is part of their long-term strategy [1]

- 60%+ will offer at least 1 online program [2]

- 90% will offer at least 1 online course [2]

- So, what's NEXT?
  - Focus on pedagogy
  - Seek to improve student engagement

Engaging Opportunities

- **<u>GOAL</u>**: Enhance your student-centered learning

- STRATEGIES (by example):
  - Collaboration Assignment
  - Casual "Twitter-Style" Discussion
  - The "a la carte" course

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Collaboration Assignment

- *Strategy*
  - Create a collaborative workspace for the class or groups
  - Students choose content focal points
  - Students critique each other's choices
  - The instructor is merely a 'referee' as needed.

- *Examples*
  - Course Glossary
  - Course Study Guide
  - Course Timeline

- *Keys to Success*
  - Delivery medium must be fast and easy to use

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Ex. Google Doc Collaboration

Search the menus (Alt /) | 100% | Normal text | Calibri | 11 | **B** *I* U A | More

FND02000 - American History
Study Guide

In Weeks 1-7, each student is expected to contribute at least two **new** terms per week to our class's Glossary of Terms. Students are also encouraged to expand on existing terms. Students should keep terms organized by chapter in the textbook. This glossary will be very helpful when studying for the Final Exam in Week 8.

Week 1 - Chapter 1:

- **Adams, John:** As the nation's second president, Adams had to deal with deteriorating relations between the United States and France. Conflicts between the two countries were evident in the XYZ Affair and the "Quasi-War" of 1798 to 1800.
- **Bank of the United States:** A central bank, chartered by the federal government in 1791. Proposed by Alexander Hamilton, the bank collected taxes, held government funds, and regulated state banks. The bank's charter expired in 1812. A second Bank of the United States was created in 1816.

Week 1 - Chapter 2:

- **American System (of Henry Clay):** Henry Clay's program for the national economy, which included a protective tariff to stimulate industry, a national bank to provide credit, and federally funded internal improvements to expand the market for farm products.
- **Bay of Pigs Fiasco:** A plan to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro and liberate Cuba with a trained military force of political exiles. The limited 1961 invasion was an unmitigated military failure and actually strengthened Castro's position in Cuba.

Week 2 - Chapter 3:

- **Federal Reserve System:** The central banking system of the United States, established with passage of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913, charged with the responsibility of managing the country's money supply through such means as lowering or raising interest rates. A presidentially appointed board of seven members (the Federal Reserve Board) oversees the twelve regional banks of the Federal Reserve System.
- **Alien and Sedition Acts:** Four acts passed in 1798 designed to curb criticism of the federal government. Adopted during a period of conflict with France, the acts lengthened the period before an immigrant could obtain citizenship, gave the president power to deport dangerous aliens, and provided for the prosecution of those who wrote "false, scandalous and malicious" writings against the U.S. government.

Week 2 - Chapter 4:

Michael Ciocco
2:50 PM Today

Does anyone know what XYZ stands for? I'm not good with acronyms

William McCool
2:51 PM Today

XYZ are the last 3 letters of the alphabet

Michael Ciocco [Resolve]
2:47 PM Today

Mike, this was actually 1812 and not 1811. I fixed this for you

Edit Delete

Mike Sunderhauf
2:47 PM Today

Thank you for catching that!

Reply to this comment...

Mike Sunderhauf
2:49 PM Today

Mike, do you know where these twelve regional banks were located? I feel she may ask that as a bonus question on the test.

"Twitter-Style" Discussion

- *Strategy*
  - Simulate informal, chronological classroom discussion
  - Discussion is NOT threaded
  - Posts are limited to approx 140 characters (35 words or less)
  - Possibly limit # of posts per user
  - Discussion is born of lecture or other content

- *Examples*
  - Question or debate posted in lecture
  - Respond to question about film clip
  - Ice-breaker discussion

- *Keys to Success*
  - Conversation is casual
  - Students learn to be concise
  - Stress that each post either replies to most recent post, or advances the topic

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Ex. Twitter-Style Discussion

SAMPLE COURSE -
EDAM27750
Manual Courses

Home
Announcements
Modules
Syllabus
Assignments
Discussions
Conferences
Chat
People
Grades
Collaborations
Quizzes
Outcomes
Pages
Files
Settings

🏠 > SAMPLE COURSE - EDAM27750 > Discussions > Example "Twitter"-Style Discussion

✏ Edit   ⚙ ▾

This is a graded discussion: 10 points possible   due -

Example "Twitter"-Style Discussion   Mar 20 at 4:05pm
Michael Ciocco   5

For this discussion board, the class will engage in an "Twitter"-Style discussion.

RULES

- The format is informal or casual conversation, but you should avoid txting style abbreviations and emoticons.
- The posts are unthreaded, so students must post in chronological order (blog style)
- Posts must be limited to 140 characters (approx 35 words or less). A URL or link counts as 1 character and should be included at the END of your post.
- When posting, you may reply to the very last post ONLY (you cannot reference earlier posts) OR your post must advance the conversation.

THEME

- Watch the Lecture 1 video posted this week on Gifted and Talented students.
- For this conversation, discuss what makes gifted students similar to disabled students. They are all considered "special," though gifted has a positive connotation and disabled has a negative one. What are the overlaps? What are common traits or characteristics? What are the common perceptions and/or mis-conceptions about gifted children?

DEADLINES and GRADE

- Each student must post at least twice before Friday at 11:59 PM ET this week.
- Your posts must make a positive contribution to the discussion. That is, no simple "I agree" or "ditto" style statements.
- This is graded for participation out of 10 possible points.

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The "a la carte" course

- *Strategy*
  - Customize class content so that students can skip or test out
  - Not off the hook! Those who skip support those who do not
  - Offer collaboration space

- *Keys to Success*
  - Students who skip content are graded on their collaboration & support of other students
  - Consider a "buddy" system to enforce collaboration

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More ideas…

- Peer Review

- Webinar/Conferences
  - Google Hangouts, Join.me, Adobe Connect
  - Guest speaker, presentations, group work…

- Video only discussion

- Office Hours chat session

- Flipped Online Classroom

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References

1. Allen, I. Elaine and Jeff Seamen. *Grade Change: Tracking Online Education in the United States, 2013*. Babson Survey Research Group and Quahog Research Group, LLC. The Sloan Consortium. January 2014.

2. Calkins, Andrew and Kristen Vogt. *Next Generation Learning: The Pathway to Possibility*. Educause. April 2013.

3. *Online Higher Education – Moving From Ordinary to Extraordinary: A Position Paper on Online Pedagogy Innovation*. Eduventures. Summer 2013.

4. Vai, Marjorie, and Kristen Sosulski. *Essentials of Online Course Design: A Standards-Based Guide*. January 2011.

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