ASYNCHRONOUS COMMUNICATION

DESCRIPTION
Asynchronous communication is online student-to-student or student-to-instructor communication that does not need to occur at the same time. Asynchronous communication can be text, audio, or audio-video content.

Email and discussion forums are the primary tools used for textual asynchronous communication. Wimba VoiceBoard is an example of an asynchronous audio communication tool. D2L’s Dropbox tool also allows you to leave an audio clip as feedback. Finally, using pre-recorded video content to communicate is an audio-video form of asynchronous communication.

WHY
Here a few reasons why Asynchronous communication is important:
• This form of communication allows flexibility.
• Students gather course material when most convenient for themselves. Course participants can analyze asynchronous content and respond from an applicable viewpoint.
• An immediate response from students and instructors is not required.
• Discussion boards give students the opportunity to post messages when time is favorable.
• A student’s response to emails and discussion posts are well developed.
• Asynchronous communication allows instructors and students to reflect on material received before a reply.

BEST PRACTICES TO CONSIDER
• You pre-record lectures that students are able to view online.
• You may consider issuing course evaluation forms online.
• You can offer your students suggestions in daily or weekly emails.

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