Beyond Course Material

Description
Planning “beyond course material” means incorporating information and content into a course that goes beyond the required content for grading. For example, you might include external multimedia and other resources, bonus modules and discussions, and other examples.

Why
Here are a few reasons to go “beyond course material” that will benefit you as well as your students:

- Career-minded students want to go above and beyond coursework so that they can include proof they are learning the topic in their portfolios.
- Academically gifted students with a special interest in the material may become disengaged if there are not enough avenues for extending their knowledge; you also want to make sure these students have the tools to further this interest in lifelong learning.
- Many students often want to know how a course applies to the “real world;’ providing these resources can help them understand that discussion and application of the content they are studying is relevant to people outside of the course.
- Exposure to application of theory can increase enthusiasm and retention of course concepts and encourages active learning.

Example
- You’re teaching an accounting class. A new story about an ethical problem in a corporation hits the news so you link to it, and encourage discussion in open boards.
- A list of links or Twitter feeds on your page allow people access to up to date news on the topic.

More Information

Encouraging science reading beyond the curriculum
- This article gives the introduction, materials and methods, results and discussion of reading beyond the curriculum.
- URL: http://www.journalofanimalscience.org/content/83/8/1972.full

Professor Proposes Taking Open Education Beyond Posting Course Materials
- This article discusses the possibilities of using blogs, Twitter and other kinds of communication methods to supplement course materials.
Online Teaching Activity Index
- This article provides quality educational activities you can employ in the online classroom.
- URL: http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/otai/

Open Educational Resources
- This website provides many good examples of how to use educational resources to improve online teaching.
- URL: http://fod.msu.edu/oir/open-educational-resources

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