HYBRID COURSES

DESCRIPTION
A hybrid course session is delivered both online and face-to-face. For example, hybrid courses could require students to interact online one week and meet in a classroom another. Students learn course material during classroom lectures, discussions, and online viewing of live and pre-recorded video lectures. This type of course fosters blended learning. It is important to note that hybrid courses are NOT courses that merely have materials posted online.

Hybrid courses bring together the best of face-to-face and online instruction. Face-to-face instruction is rich in intrapersonal content, whereas the online component provides the flexibility of scheduling associated with online instruction. The two mediums provide diversity in instructional materials which can help with student engagement and addressing different learning styles.

WHY
- Greater schedule flexibility for both students and instructors.
- Promotes self-directed learning.
- Out-of-class activities are better integrated with in-class activities.
- Helps to encourage active learning because students are doing, rather than experiencing or reading.
- Students can review lectures, course notes, and other materials on their own time.
- Students who rarely take part in classroom discussions are more likely to participate online, where they get time to “think before they type.”
- Helps you when “Respecting Diverse Learning Styles” by permitting auditory, visual, tactile content formats.

BEST PRACTICES TO CONSIDER
- Teach your course in a traditional setting prior to a hybrid format.
- Provide students with technical support.
- Encourage the development of time management skills.
- Make your syllabus available for students to view prior to the beginning of the course.
- Clearly explain all available online communication tools.
- Make students aware of your office hours.

MORE INFORMATION
Hybrid Courses: The Best of Both Worlds
- This site provides a definition of hybrid course and a list of annotated links about topics in teaching hybrid courses.
- URL: http://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewMaterial.htm?id=79722
Hybrid Learning Model (HLM)
- A tool for planning hybrid courses that proposes eight learning events: receives, debates, experiments, creates, explores, practices, imitates, and meta-learns.
- URL: http://cetl.ulster.ac.uk/elearning/hlm.php

Introduction to Hybrid Courses
- This resource defines the hybrid course, gives reasons for offering hybrid courses, and discusses the results of the Hybrid Course Project, a University of Wisconsin experiment in implementing the hybrid course model.
- URL: http://www.uwsa.edu/ttt/articles/garnham.htm

Creating a Hybrid College Course: Instructional Design Notes and Recommendations for Beginners
- This report presents a case study of a fifty-student hybrid college course at Appalachian State University that delivered content via classroom, the WebCT LMS, and CD-ROM. Offers recommendations for prospective instructors of hybrid courses.
- URL: http://jolt.merlot.org/vol1_no2_hensley.htm

Blended Faculty Community of Inquiry Planning Document
- This planning document is designed to help you transform a traditionally taught class into a blended learning course.

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