

DE@CUESTA

DE@CUESTA Online

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Contents

Notes for Cuesta DE Instructors

Best Practices:

Creating Community and Social Presence with Virtual Ice Breakers

Online Teaching Training

Tips, Tricks, & Learning Objects

Must Read, Follow, & See:

Links to the latest happenings in DE

Conference & Paper Calls

Notes for Cuesta DE Instructors

from Mark Stengel, Status of Cuesta's Learning Management System (currently Blackboard CE Vista 8.0)

Our current contract with Blackboard (through the Foundation for California Community Colleges) expires at the end of June, 2012. We will need to migrate to our next generation Learning Management System (LMS) during the 2011-12 academic year. The Distance Education Committee and a subcommittee of the Technology Committee are currently evaluating LMS systems; we will decide by the end of the Spring 2011 semester. Key considerations include:

- core functionality (usability for students and faculty)
- integration with Banner
- training and support for students and faculty
- hosting
- migration support
- costs (for licensing, if applicable, plus all of the above)

from Catherine Hillman, SPRING FLEX

Greetings everyone! I understand this falls in our break time, but I will be giving a presentation on campus on Jan. 12 in room 3144 via CCCConfer, on "Communicable Environments & Contagious Learning." Some of you have asked to see the presenter's side of the process and if you are able to join me in room 3144 from 9:30am until 10:30, you can watch the online presentation from the presenter's point of view. I will answer all questions about the presenter's side from 10:30 until 11-ish. John Knutson has OK'd this as a professional development activity, and it therefore qualifies as FLEX.

Best Practices: Creating Community and Social Presence with Virtual Ice Breakers

Introductions - Be sure to provide your distance education students with some forum to introduce themselves and share a little about their interests with each other. Include yourself, too, so that students begin to feel a vibrant sense of community from the first day of your online course. The Discussion Area is an excellent place for meet and greet in Blackboard, enabling students to introduce themselves, respond to others' introductions, and practice attaching documents. Here's a sample introduction assignment from a session of ENGLISH 201A:

Got Something to Share?

Send best practices, suggestions, and web links for inclusion in DE@CUESTA to aklinger@cuesta.edu

Welcome to the Discussions area for our course. Week 1's first assignment is to introduce yourself to the rest of the class and to respond to two students' introductions (25 points total). Students are expected to read all the posts in a discussion, just as they would hear all the students' voices in a face-to-face class. Tell us where you are keyboarding to us from, why you are taking this course online of all places, and anything about your current or future educational and career plans that you wish to share. Also, be sure to describe one thing that you learned relatively easily. Then, tell us about something that you found very challenging to master. Finally, provide one relevant--course-related and course-appropriate--web link and image attachment for others in the class.

For reasons of confidentiality and fair use, your image can neither include people other than yourself, nor can it use copyright protected images that rightly belong to others. So select a royalty-free image or a photograph that you took that helps introduce you. (Your point total will reflect your ability to follow these instructions, by not posting images of your

friends and your family even if they give you their permission.) Keep in mind that "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas," but what happens in Blackboard does not necessarily stay in Bb. Anything you write or attach can easily be copied and pasted; downloaded and uploaded. The last thing you or I want is for your children's images to get displayed inappropriately on the Internet or for your employer to see an image of you behaving inappropriately. Be sure to only post what represents your own best self from here to eternity. Cover each of these 5 requirements, using complete sentences (3 points a piece):

1. Where are you geographically situated and why are you taking this course?
2. Describe one thing you found very quick and painless to learn.
3. Describe something you learned that had a steep learning curve.
4. Include a relevant and appropriate web link.
5. Include a relevant and appropriate image attachment that shows us more about who you are and is helpful to others.

Finally, respond to two students' introductions, sharing some common ground or life experience, suggesting a helpful hint or web link, being supportive or collegial, or making a scholarly connection. Each well-written and well-developed response is worth up to 5 points for a total of 10 points based on the significance and depth of the connection (10 points total).

Must Read

- "EDUCAUSE Research Focus: Students And IT," By Sandoval Chagoya.
- "Top U.S. Community Colleges Awarded for Digital Technology," by Converge Staff.
- "5 Digital Community College Trends from 2010," by Converge Staff.
- "Growing Up Digital, Wired for Distraction," by Matt Richtel.
- "Enrollment in Online Courses Increases at the Highest Rate Ever," by Travis Kay.
- "Tweeting Students Earn Higher Grades Than Others in Classroom Experiment," by Paige Chapman.
- "Professors Publish Guide to Copyright Issues of Multimedia Projects," by Paige Chapman.
- "6 Top Smartphone Apps to Improve Teaching, Research, and Your Life," by Jeffrey R. Young.
- "Most-Popular Education-Technology Articles of 2010," by Jeff Young.
- "Class Differences: Online Education in the United States, 2010," Eighth Annual Sloan Survey of Online Education Shows Economy Still Driving Growth.
- Colleges Lock Out Blind Students Online
- Best and Worst College Web Sites for Blind Students
- "Cal State's Strong Push for Accessible Technology Gets Results," by Josh Keller.

Seeking Online Teaching Training?

- [Developmental Students: Using Hybrid Coursework to Improve Electronic Literacy](#)
- "The @ONE Project makes it easy for California Community College faculty and staff to learn about technology that will enhance student learning and success. @ONE's programs provide training, online resources and research for free - or at a very low cost - thanks to funding from the California Community College Chancellor's Office Telecommunication and Technology Infrastructure Program (TTIP)." [Upcoming Desktop Seminars and Online Courses](#)

For those of you interested in the training opportunities from @ONE, remember that Cuesta has a pre-paid account. All you have to do is use the coupon code cu3st4pl4n when you register (the third character from the end is a lower-case L, not the numeral 1).

Tips, Tricks, & Learning Objects

- "Creating Online Courses: A Step-by-Step Guide," by William R. Klemm.
- "5 Teaching Tips for Professors--From Video Games," by Jeffrey R. Young.
- "Motivation in On-Line Classes," by Jerry Cellilo.
- Six Applications of Photography in Education
- Policy Agendas Project
- Online Cl@ssroom: Ideas for Effective Online Instruction
- SafeShare.TV Safe way to share YouTube videos
- Virtlab: A Virtual Laboratory
- emTech: Emerging Technologies: Over 15,000 resources organized by topics for teachers, students, and parents."
- "The Sofia Project is an open content initiative launched by the Foothill - De Anza Community College District, encouraging the free exchange of community college- level materials on the World Wide Web."
- "The Periodic Table of Videos," The University of Nottingham: "tables charting the chemical elements have been around since the 19th century, but this modern version has a short video about each one."
- Favorite Health and Fitness Tracking Tools

Must Read *continued...*

- [Title 5 Regulations on Distance Education](#)
- [“Guidelines for Good Practice: Effective Instructor-Student Contact in Distance Learning,”](#) The academic Senate for the California Community Colleges, Adopted Spring 1999.
- [“Guide to Evaluating Distance Education & Correspondence Education,”](#) A Publication of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges, October 2010 Edition. Scroll down to Commission Publications: <http://www.accjc.org/publications.htm>
- [National Education Technology Plan 2010](#)

Must Follow

- [Jargon File](#)
- ["The Human Element,"](#) by Steve Kolowich.
- [“Switching Sides,”](#) by Matt Wasowski.
- [“Online Teaching Advice for Matt Wasowski,”](#) by Joshua Kim.
- [“A Guide By Your Side: How a Union Uses Mentors to Improve Online Instruction,”](#) by Cynthia Eaton, page 12.
- [“BlogU Technology and Learning: a space for conversation and debate about learning and technology,”](#) by Joshua Kim.
- [“21st Century Teaching and Learning,”](#) MPB Reflections
- ["Teaching Carnival 4.5,"](#) by Prof. Hacker.
- [Distance Education Report:](#) “Dedicated to online learning programs, from the “big picture” to the nuts and bolts.”
- The Society of Architectural Historians has launched a new multimedia edition of its acclaimed journal, [JSAH](#).
- [Tech & Learning:](#) “practical resources and expert strategies for transforming education through integration of digital technologies.”
- [California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office > Divisions > Academic Affairs > Distance Education](#)
- [Writing Problems of Visual Thinkers- Pictures vs. Words/ Literal Films](#)
- [Best Practices: Online Learning and Information Technology](#)
- [Chronicle Forums - Careers In the Classroom - Online Teaching](#)

Must See

- ["A Fair\(y\) Use Tale,"](#) Stanford Center for Internet and Society.
- [Teachers' Views on Technology in the Classroom](#)
- [The Story of the Digital Book](#)
- [Stephen Fry Kinetic Typography- Language](#)
- [Fast Math Trick](#)
- [Joanne Loves Science Channel](#)
- [A Short Compendium of Academic Humor](#)
- [OK Go - This Too Shall Pass - Rube Goldberg Machine Version – Official](#)

Conference & Paper Calls

- [27th Annual Conference on Distance Teaching & Learning:](#) Aug. 3–5, 2011, Madison, WI. Proposal deadline is Jan. 19, 2011 at 4:00 pm (CST).
- The [4th Annual Emerging Technologies for Online Learning \(ET4OL\) International Symposium](#) at The Fairmont, San Jose, CA is coming up July 11–13, 2011. Call for Presentations is now open – All proposals must be submitted by 11:59 pm (EST) on Jan. 24, 2011. Full paper submission is not required; abstract submission only.
- [2011 Online Teaching Conference](#) June 22–24, 2011, at Orange Coast Community College in Costa Mesa. Presentation Proposal deadline is Jan. 31, 2011. Early bird registration ends on April 10, 2011.
- [eLearning 2011 Conference](#) Feb. 19–21, 2011, at the Trade Winds Island Grand Resort, St. Pete Beach, Florida.
- [8th Annual Sloan Consortium Blended Learning Conference and Workshop – Evidence to Practice: Fulfilling the Promise](#) Mar. 28–29, 2011, Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort, Oak Brook, IL. A conference devoted to the purposeful, strategic and comprehensive approach to blended teaching and learning.
- [Academic Exchange Quarterly](#), independent double-blind-peer-reviewed print journal, welcomes submissions that contribute to the effective instruction and learning regardless of level or subject.
- The [MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching \(JOLT\)](#) is a peer-reviewed, open access, online publication addressing the scholarly use of multimedia resources in online education. JOLT is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December.