Importance of Instructional Design Methods in the Development of Online Courses

“Times are a changing” whether we want them to do so or not. Online learning is here, but is it quality learning and instruction? Developing online courses need to include the use of instructional design models and methods. Too often, faculty who have been successful teaching face-to-face course are requested to develop a course online, but do not receive any training or little support on the design process or most useful pedagogies for an online environment. Many times faculty from the same department develop online or hybrid courses that have no similarity. Students enrolled in these courses need to figure out how to read and understand each course separately.

After listening to student complaints about this, the presenters of this roundtable plan to develop templates for courses used by three departments in a college of education.

According to Steven Gerson

… most web sites should contain similar information to benefit the students. The consistency of web site design is important for two reasons. First, a consistent design for a college or university's web offerings is important to help students navigate numerous courses. For instance, if a student is taking two or more distance learning courses and encounters a different online design in each class, that student will potentially have trouble learning how to find assignments, meet deadlines, and complete the course requirements. Instead, a consistent design for a school's online course offerings would help that student when he or she shifts attention from class to class. Second, all online courses should contain certain key components because these components are necessary to ensure the students' successful course completion (Winter, 2000).

At this time, the presenters are studying various models and looking for designs used by other departments, colleges, and universities. E-CLASS (Gerson, 2000): explain, clarify, look, act, share and self evaluate is one of the models.
During this roundtable the presenters will share ideas and tentative plans for this project.
Participants who agree to share their designs are appreciated. Participants, if desired, will be sent the final design of the templates when the project is completed.

References