Introduction to the Humanities: A Virtual Course with Video, Wiki, and Podcasting

As more colleges offer online courses, instructional designers must focus on creating as close to a face-to-face environment as possible. In this Best Practices session, the presenter will showcase a college-level introduction to humanities course in a solely online environment. This course, which typically covers art, dance, literature, and theatre, requires students to observe performance. In an online environment, where students may be geographically dispersed, as well as not meeting synchronously, observing live performance or visiting a museum is not an option.

The presenter will show how the integration of streaming video, interactive online tutorials, wiki technology, and podcasting in a course management system (along with typical course management system elements such as synchronous and asynchronous discussion, email, and content management) allow students to experience a learning environment which closely mirrors that of the traditional classroom. Students are able to take virtual tours of museums, see recordings of live performances, hear authors read their works, and develop their own audio visual materials (video, podcast) in the creation of multimedia assignments. Students not only learn the technology involved in creating these assignments, but also learn the rhetorical contexts for each environment.