Workload, Advantages, & Disadvantages of a Newly Developed Online Course

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The introduction of computer technology necessitates a change in the approach to education at the university level. Distance education is capable of offering new learning opportunities unrestricted by time, distance, or individual differences among students. The course Health and Sexuality was designed and piloted as a web-based class during the Spring 2000 Semester in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The purpose of this study was to determine the workload hours pertaining to the design and teaching of an online course, and to ascertain advantages and disadvantages involved in taking and teaching an online course. Some advantages students expressed included the ability to work at their own pace, and not having to attend class. Disadvantages included computer problems, and procrastination. Grading workload and time on the computer increased tremendously for the professor. This information will be used to improve online teaching and learning.