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Issue 7 March 2014

Distance Education

What's New in Distance Education

Faculty Focus

What do Anita Foeman, Bessie Lawton and Phil Thompsen all have in common? They are teaching a MOOC (massive open online course). This course is a one hour "teaser" that introduces students to the basic frameworks for viewing culture. It explains theory and gives examples from our own life experience.

Drs. Philip Thompsen, Bessie Lawton, and Anita Foeman worked in collaboration to pilot "A World of Difference: Exploring Intercultural Communication." The class launched on the UdeMy platform in late October, 2013. To date, over 800 participants from around the world have joined the course, with more registering daily. These open access modules are also being used as a small part of the online for-credit class in Intercultural Communication (COM250), and the materials are playing multiple roles in educating our students, marketing the department, and reaching potential off-campus constituents. The collaborators believe that the potential of this educational approach is boundless and represents a new phase in access and global sharing.

Bessie states "this MOOC is very exciting for us, because it represents our first foray into reaching audiences from around the world. We are finding that constituents worldwide share our passion for cultural understanding, and a MOOC is the perfect vehicle for building intercultural connections with people that we would never have had the chance to reach face-to-face."



Anita states "the fun part is collaboration with colleagues with different skill sets. It is also fun to address the real world challenge of creating a class that is engaging enough to attract people from many different backgrounds. I also love reading all of the international names. We have all kinds of new ideas for interactivity to explore."



Phil states "Working on this MOOC has been both a fun and interesting project. It's great that we're reaching such a broad and varied international audience, which is appropriate given that the topic of the MOOC is intercultural communication. I'm looking forward to working with Drs. Foeman and Lawton as we continue to develop the MOOC in the future."



Want to check it out for yourself? Click on the link below:
<https://www.udemy.com/intercultural>

Library Services for Distance Education



Danielle Skaggs is new to our WCU campus, but has made a big impact! Starting this semester, students who take their classes at the Graduate Center are eligible for distance student services at the library! Students who take all their classes off the main WCU campus (at the Graduate Center, Philadelphia Center, and/or completely online) are eligible to

have books mailed to their home. For more information, see the [guide for distance students](#).

Teaching an online or hybrid course? We are happy to provide library instruction for your course, through guides, tutorials, or webinars. Need help locating or linking to articles, ebooks, or streaming videos? We can help you with that too! Please contact Danielle Skaggs, eLearning and Outreach Librarian (dskaggs@wcupa.edu, 610-436-2401) or your liaison librarian for help!

Distance Education Initiative

This Spring, 17 faculty are participating in the DE initiative. They are attending a number of workshops with guest lecturers, meeting with an instructional designer and preparing the CAPC paperwork, for the course to be approved and taught in the Fall.

Look for more Distance Education funding opportunities in the upcoming months.

DE/TLAC Lunch and Learn Round Table

These round table discussions have been a great success. Faculty attend a guest lecture and then get an opportunity to discuss and share their ideas and experiences with their colleagues. Faculty gain valuable insight from their peers and learn about new teaching tools and technologies.

Two more Lunch and Learns—look for the emails!
[Wed March 26—E-portfolios—Dr. Irma Van Scoy](#)
[Wed 4/16—Mobile Apps for teaching and learning](#)

Upcoming Events

Friday Workshops

DE is now on the SAT calendar that IT distributes. The workshops are in **AND 24 from 11:00 a.m.**

to 12:00 The following dates and topics are:

- 3/28 What could possibly go wrong with technology: Communication in an Online Course
- 4/4 Online Course Page Design in D2L
- 4/11 Gamification for Online Course Design
- 4/25 What could possibly go wrong with technology: Taking an Online Course

The New Online Student Orientation and Resources Site

The Office of Distance Education has launched a new **Online Student Orientation and Resources Site**. This site, which is accessible through D2L, introduces students to the critical technical skills and process-based competencies that support success in WCU online courses.

If you are teaching online this semester, then The Online Student Orientation and Resources is already in your D2L list of courses. Your students will see it with their other courses. **If you are not teaching a course online this semester, but would like access to this site for you and/or your students, please contact The Office of Distance Education: 610.436.2948 or distanceed@wcupa.edu**

Did You Know?

According to a 2013 Babson Survey Research Group Study

- The number of students taking at least one online course increased by over 411,000 to a new total of 7.1 million. That is a 33.5 percent of the total higher education student population.
- The majority of institutions (53 percent) report they are still undecided about MOOCs, while under one-third (33 percent) say they have no plans for a MOOC.

Distance Education Toolbox



Tools for Video Engagement
Videonot.es
<http://www.videonot.es/>
Take and share time-stamped notes

teachem
<http://www.teachem.com/>
Create time-stamped flashcards

Viologues
<https://vialogues.com>
Students add to a discussion board as they watch your video

DE Research Updates

Distance education scholars published in IAFOR Journal of Education

Smidt, E., Bunk, J., McGrory, B., Li, R., & Gatenby, T. (2014). Student attitudes about distance education: Focusing on context and effective practices. *The IAFOR Journal of Education*, 2(1), 40-64. Retrieved from <http://iafor.org/iafor/ije-volume-2-issue-1/>



Save the Date

June 2—June 13

Summer Online Faculty
Development Program

On-Site Hours

Instructional Designers
work with faculty to
assist and develop their
online courses

Tuesdays

11:30—1:00

Main 132

until April 29

Wednesdays

11:30—1:00

AND 322

Until April 30

Wednesdays

4:00—5:00

GBC

Until April 30

Thursdays

HSC 301B

Until May 1

Contact Us

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Email: distanceed@wcupa.edu
Website: <http://www.wcupa.edu/distanceed>

Spring 2014 Distance Education

Enrollment Data

- * 53 online courses (958 students)
- * 18 blended courses (888 students)
- * 3 ITV courses (26 students)