

Sam Houston State University

**Making online student success courses “come alive”:
Creating meaningful educational experiences**

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Introduction

CASP 2016 Session Overview Using SHSU Blackboard Module




<https://youtu.be/4sm9gFcidkc>



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Interactive Poll – Online Learning Experiences





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Online courses in higher education

- The introduction of distance-learning and technology is described as **dramatically altering the face of learning** and instruction (Rahm & Reed, 1997).
- Increasing demand for college-level education has resulted in expansion of **distance education**, with **spending** on such programs increasing **as much as 133%** between 2001 and 2004 (Lewis, 2010)
- Research continues to address educational success factors for learners participating in these courses with less emphasis on **learner-content interaction** (Zimmerman, 2012)

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Online learning in higher education

- “Most professors will agree that teaching online remains a relatively **new frontier**” (Carwile, 2007).
 - Especially in keeping students motivated and engage
- Constructivist models of learning – active participation + independent exploration = deeper understanding of content.
 - Online environments? Yes, it takes time and effort, not to mention **advance work and planning** (Carwile, 2007).
- Learner-content interaction **→** **Learner-interface interaction** (Zimmerman, 2012)

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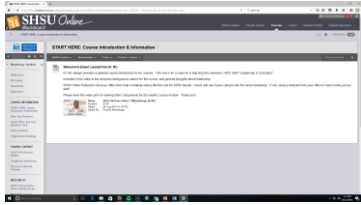
Online learning in higher education – **Learner-interface**

- In a community college developmental education mathematics course, distance learners fared worse than face-to-face (Ashby, Sadera, & McNary, 2011)
 - Students provided **slide show-based audio lectures** with written transcripts, handouts, & practice problems
- Global contexts for learning (Westbrook, 2014)
 - Low-context & **high-context** learners
 - High-context communication depends on **nonverbal cues & relationship oriented**
 - Higher percentages of minority students enrolled in developmental education courses (Ashby, Sadera, & McNary)

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Instructor Strategies – High Context Learning

- CASP 2016 Blackboard Module
 - Video Introduction – “Get to Know Me”



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Instructor Strategies – High Context Learning

- Weekly Overview Video
 - You can have students hear your tone and see your body language to important topics



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Instructor Strategies – High Context Learning

- Online Journals
 - Weekly journals using the online platform (Blackboard) can be an informative tool to tap into high-context learning via a written format.
 - In my classes, I do place a minimum requirement of 75-100 words for points, but I don't perform a word count.
 - I gauge the impact of a lesson by length of journal entry. If students only making minimum requirement, outreach to student to express self more.




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Instructor Strategies – High Context Learning

- Grade Feedback via Video
 - You can have students hear your tone and see your body language to course performance




<https://youtu.be/0Ly1155o2sc>

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Engagement Strategies – Learner-Interface Interaction

- Synchronous “Live” Meetings
 - Purpose – to meet "live" and to again hear communication cues and see body language.
 - Having these meetings just once or twice a semester is fine.
 - Schedule of meetings should match the schedule for students.
 - Required (announce prior to semester if possible) vs. optional (record sessions)? That is for instructor to determine based on reasons for meeting.
 - **Students see each other usually in their personal learning environments.** (Chronicle of Higher Education, October 2016)

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Engagement Strategies – Learner-Interface Interaction

- Discussion Boards via Video
 - Video response in discussion boards could be an option for participation. It allows students to hear voice and body language on discussion prompt.
 - Some trial learning is needed on student's end; first discussion board should have no points attached but try out; keep this format as an option and still have written responses available.

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Engagement Strategies - Learner-Interface Interaction

- **Interactive Polling**
 - You can use the interactive polling program we used at the beginning of this session within your lesson module. Poll Everywhere can provide a link to your polling item so that students can respond to it without using their phone.
 - For example, this question asks **"Is this the first time you have used interactive polling?"**
 - https://PollEv.com/multiple_choice_polls/bawqEyTRZCuZ7z/web
- For a student success online course, you could ask students something like, **"Have you used the tutoring and writing center this past month?"**
- https://PollEv.com/multiple_choice_polls/9s4h7z5jmEclka2/web

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Summary

- Online education will continue to increase. We need to understand how to **enhance student interaction** with this growing learning environment, **especially in student success courses!**
- **Context as it relates to student learning is important.** Students with high-context learning will **find challenges to succeed in courses with anonymity and no cues to assist**
- Online instructors need advance planning to implement strategies
- Constructivist approach to teaching is possible, just need to think "outside the box" often
- Don't be afraid or shy to use new technology or gadgets (ex. GoPro)

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Q & A



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THANK YOU!

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