DISTANCE LEARNING & INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

UNT|DALLAS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The Importance of a Welcome Video in your Course

Students report that they feel somewhat disconnected from a course when they take a course online or when Web-supported instruction replaces the face-to-face class meetings. The challenge in designing Web-supported courses in any discipline is for instructors to establish their "teaching presence" with their students. The importance of using video in your online course and even in your hybrid and supplemental courses cannot be overstated. We all know that today's learners are multimodal and multinodal, they digest their information in different ways through different mechanisms. One type of video in your course that is ofttimes overlooked is a "Welcome" or "Introduction to the Course" video. Students in an online environment feel more connected when they know who is facilitating the learning process. Putting a face to course materials and discussion posts can help the learner feel closer to the professor even though the real distance may be great.

The good news is that recording a **Welcome video** is a breeze and we, at DLIT, can help you do it!

If you are gearing up toward the Spring semester and would like to record a welcome video for your UNT Dallas course (hybrid or online) come to any of the two Video Shoot Sessions that we'll have next week (see dates, times and locations below in the "Coming Next Week" section) and record the welcome videos for your distance learning courses.

Greet your students with a welcome message, and tell them how to get started in the course. This welcome message should be the first thing students see when they initially log into the course. And hey, we know students prefer video because it allows them to see you as a real human being leading their eLearning experience. Our staff will be available to assist you and walk you through the process of recording your videos.
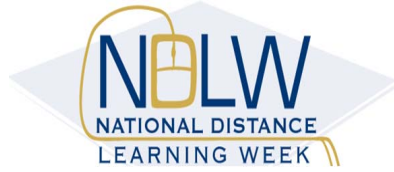
Several of our instructors have already recorded their Welcome videos. Here are some of them:

Dr. Isaura Flores
Entrepreneurship, Lecturer

Dr. Sheryl Santos-Hatchett, Ph.D.
Professor of Bilingual Education

SURVEY RESEARCH METHODS
Second Edition
Earl Babbie

Survey Research Methods
Earl Babbie (ISBN: 9780534126728)

Dr. Constance Lacy
Human Services Management & Leadership, Lecturer

Walt Borges, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Aslinia, Dean PhD, LPC-S, NCC
Graduate Lecturer of Counseling

Michael Lansing MBA
Lecturer, Hospitality Management

And hey, since we use our green screen backdrop to record the videos and thanks to the chroma key technique replace the background with any image still or video footage, we can have you appear almost anywhere from Madrid for a Spanish Course to Ancient Greece for a History Course to different sites and building for architecture, or inside a museum to talk about artists' paintings and sculptures for Art Appreciation, to any other setting or place! Let our video team work with you to design the video that bests suits your course needs.

Tech and Education: DLIT Celebrates National Distance Learning Week at UNTD

Distance learning is revolutionizing education in our country, and it's only the beginning. That's why, the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies celebrated this week National Distance Learning Week, sponsored by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA), to recognize the ever-increasing growth in online education.

Several webinars and presentations for our faculty were scheduled throughout the week of November 9–12. On Tuesday, November 10, we hosted our first UNTD Distance Learning Showcase where important information on our online learners was presented and discussed. Job transfers, family needs and work obligations can make it difficult for some of our students to complete their degrees; fortunately, online learning is making the process a little easier and allowing them to keep up with their coursework even while on the go. Valuable information regarding UNT Dallas' online student population was shared with the attendees and provided them with a different perspective of our distance learning students. These findings will help us to design our course contents, activities and strategies being used in our online learning environments based on our student's real expectations.

Integrating technology into education requires a new approach to educational change that infuses new technologies with teaching and learning. We must understand the power of this technological transformation and apply it in redesigning our courses to meet the needs of today's learners for tomorrow's technological workforce.

Nationally, distance learning is on the rise. The implications for students of any age to be able to learn, at any time and from anywhere, without commuting or sitting in a traditional classroom, are enormous. Distance learning has made education, including higher education, more accessible to more people, with nearly a third of all students in higher education are taking at least one online course. According to an annual report by the Babson Survey Research Group, 5.3 million students took at least one online course in fall 2013. In 2014, 70 percent of chief academic leaders named e-learning as a critical element in their long-term strategy.

The **UNT Dallas eCampus** was released at the beginning of the Spring 2014 semester, offering our first 15 distance learning courses and a host of web-enhanced courses.

For the **2015 Fall semester** our office has been working with **85 instructors** teaching in the online environment bringing our distance learning course offering numbers up to **173 sections of 128 different courses** being offered at UNTD.

Seats filled with DL courses at UNTD	
15FA	3,694 seats
15SU	1,819 seats
15SP	3,026 seats
2015 Total	**8,539 seats**

The vast majority of our students take a mixture of online and classroom courses. This year alone, **8,539 seats** were filled with distance learning course offerings. About **69%** of our student body population is taking at least one distance learning course. And did you know that we currently have **256 online only students**?

And this is definitely only the beginning for us!

Please click the following links to access the archived recorded sessions of some of this week's webinars:

Accessibility and Usability in Online Courses
Presented by: Cecelia Green (Quality Matters)

Discover The Latest Mobile Learning & Collaboration Technology
Presented by: Derek Lundsten (CEO, Scrimmage)

CBE: Employers and Employability (Pearson)
Presented by: Ed Sargent, Project Director PACE-IT, VP of Workforce
Development /Training – Edmonds Community College
Mary Hendrix, Ph.D, Vice President Student Access & Success Texas Affordable
Baccalaureate Program, Texas A&M University

Distance Learning Resources in Telehealth
Presented by: Janet Major, Associate Director for Facilities, Arizona Telemedicine Program (Arizona Health
Sciences Center) USDLA Board Member, Telehealth

Virtual Presence: Inspire and Engage in the Virtual Classroom and Beyond
Presented by: Kate Nugent, Facilitator and Director of Product & Training, The Ariel Group

USDLA Chapter Program Overview
Presented by: Ken Conn (USDLA)

Company's Coming. Get Out The Good China!
Presented by: Pam Birtolo and Amy McGrath (Global Personalized Academics)

10 Signs That the Shift to Digital Is Underway – and 5 Ways to Get Ahead of the Curve!
Presented by: John Watson, President of Evergreen Education Group and lead author of the annual Keeping Pace
Report, and Mickey Revenaugh, co-founder of Connections Education and Board President of iNACOL

Texas Joins SARA

Texas recently joined **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement
(SARA)**. SARA is a nationwide initiative of states that will make distance
education courses more accessible to students across state lines and
make it easier for states to regulate and institutions to participate in
interstate distance education. The effort is funded by the Lumina
Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and fees paid by
institutions.
Once a state joins SARA, institutions in the state that offer distance education courses can seek approval from their
state to participate in SARA. When approved, these institutions will be able to operate in other participating SARA
states without seeking independent authorization from those states. Participating in SARA is entirely voluntary for
institutions, as it is for states.
We'll share more information on this initiative in the forthcoming weeks. For more information on SARA, please
visit the following links:

- SARA States and Institutions

- NC-SARA FAQs

...COMING NEXT WEEK!

"Welcome Videos" Shoot Sessions

Gearing up toward the Spring semester? Come to our Video Shoot Sessions and record the welcome videos for your distance learning courses.

Greet your students with a welcome message, and tell them how to get started in the course. This welcome message should be the first thing students see when they initially log into the course. And hey, we know students prefer video because it allows them to see you as a real human being leading their eLearning experience. Our staff will be available to assist you and walk you through the process of recording your videos. No need to sign up, just drop by whenever you can any time during these session.
Nov 16 (2:00 – 5:00 PM), Founders Hall Rm 138
Nov 17 (12:00 – 3:00 PM), Founders Hall Rm 127

Blackboard Open Lab

Whether you're just starting work on your spring course or putting on those finishing touches in your fall courses, visit our Blackboard Open Labs for advice, assistance, or simply a collegial place to work. We will have worksheets, information and ideas on constructing assignments. Staff from the Office of DLIT will be available to discuss online/hybrid/traditional course design and help with Blackboard or other instructional technology. Please note, there is no formal program and there's no need to make an appointment. This is a drop-in-whenever-you-can event.
Nov 18, (2:30 PM – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336

DLAC Last Meeting for the Fall Semester

If you're part of the Distance Learning Advisory Committee we'll have our final meeting for the Fall 2015 semester on Thursday, November 19, at 10:00 am in Founders Hall, Rm 308.
We will review old and new business items and share valuable information regarding UNT Dallas' online student population that is guaranteed to provide you with a different perspective of our students. You're going to be pleasantly surprised!
Nov 19, (10:00 AM – 12:00 PM), Founders Hall Rm 308

» Social Media, Accessibility and Disability Inclusion

Time to use Social Media to strengthen the voices of the community of individuals with disabilities? This session will provide strategies to assure that your message is accessible and relevant to the community of persons with disabilities. Social Media is providing a huge opportunity for our community including recruiting, employment, advocacy, education and human rights advancements. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) there are 1 in 7 people in the world that have a disability. Social Media is a conduit that can strength and empower the voices of persons with disabilities. However Social Media must be accessible from both a design issue but also a bandwidth and digital divide perspective. This session will show ways that we can use Social Media to empower persons with disabilities, find our voices and address accessibility so everyone can participate.
Speaker: Debra Ruh, Global Disability Inclusion Strategist
Nov 19 (1:00-2:30 PM), Dal2 Rm 122 or join virtually

Articles

(Click the images to read the articles)

eLearning Industry

6 Simple Tricks To Make Your eLearning Course Stand Out http://dlvr.it/ChVXF5 #eLearningDesignandDevelopment #eLearningContentDevelopment

6 SIMPLE TRICKS TO MAKE YOUR COURSE STAND OUT

eLearning Industry

The Impact Of Social Intelligence In eLearning http://dlvr.it/CgxqFN #eLearningDesignandDevelopment #EmotionalIntelligence

More

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 01	Meetup 4 – Let's **change** something! 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Dal 2, Rooftop	**DEC 02**	Finals **Grading Café** 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM Dal 1, Rm 336

Contact Us!

The **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies** invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for our workshops and sessions!
Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:

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Phone: 972-338-5580
Email: UNTDDistance@unt.edu

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