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Compiled Messages

[Print](#)[Save as File](#)**Subject:** LBrown - What is exemplary?**Topic:** Discussion: What is Exemplary?**Author:** Lita Brown**Date:** February 17, 2012 3:49 PM

I selected ANTH112 (Society, Time and Archaeology), and SWRK634 (Field Practicum for Social Work). I really wanted to poke around inside GEOG 106 (The American West) and PSYC 355 (Child and Adolescent Psychology). American West because of my bachelors in American Studies and the Psychology class because I am taking CEPD this semester!

Look at how they identified their exemplary characteristics. Do you see any connecting themes between the courses that were selected?

Course design was similar for both classes, and familiar after taking Dr. Huett's classes! The navigation/left nav contents and organization into modules were well done. Developing a sense of community among the students with discussions was a big part of both classes and I really liked the use of the Wimba voice recordings for some discussions.

Do you agree with the identification of these courses as exemplary?

Yes, I do consider them to be "exemplary" as defined in the rubric – but more importantly, I think, is that I have outside examples of instructors using Vista in a way that I am used to, validating my expectations of online classes and what I would provide for my students. I had a feeling that I had experienced 'exemplary' classed when I began taking classes by other instructors. Seeing that there is, in fact, great similarity in the structure among exemplary classes lets me understand why I didn't feel as connected in some classes.

Were there any ideas that you saw or heard that you want to incorporate..?

Using the voice recordings in addition to, or instead of discussion postings was a really neat option. Being able to record and talk my responses, and hear my classmates that way as well, would take the community building to the next level. A part of me is terrified at the thought of giving a voice option to middle or high schoolers, but then again, those teachable moments can be real life changers!

How do you feel about the Chico State evaluation rubric/process?

I agree with Kaia that the name of the rubric was a little misleading, and I prefer her designation: "Rubric for Online Instruction Design" as well. Similarly, the Chico rubric doesn't focus on content and standards like the other rubrics we used, but I did like the Baseline, Effective and Exemplary breakdown. I think that could be of real use to teachers in understanding how to improve, rather than to have to depend on evaluators writing good notes. So, of the 3 rubrics I've been exposed to I did like the rubric we used for GAVS, but I found myself missing some of the details that the QM rubric included - possibly the same detail I moaned about as being superfluous last semester!

What role should quality control play in a balanced assessment/ evaluation process for teachers in the K-12 setting..?

Bliss said it very well: "I think quality control for teacher evaluation can only be done if all teachers are appropriately trained the same, and all administrators completing the evaluations have the same expectations."

The hard part about quality control in public education, in my experience, is that everyone is not on the same page. Teachers do not have the same level of training and administrators do not have the same expectations. I agree very much with Nan when she said: "quality control sometimes stems from a bureaucratic mandate that only serves to dot the i or cross the t. This type of "quality control" seems more concerned with saying "gotcha" rather than truly improving the quality of the course or the instructor." This is something that has to change if we are actually going to be focused on Quality lessons.

[Reply](#)[Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:LBrown - What is exemplary?**Author:** Elizabeth Nan Lanford**Topic:** Discussion: What is Exemplary?**Date:** February 17, 2012 8:50 PM

I liked the addition of the voice discussion boards, too. I thought hearing the voices of classmates might add a touch to the community of the class. I also would have liked to check out the American West class. It looked like there were a lot of interesting class choices listed among the Exemplary classes.

[Reply](#)[Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:LBrown - What is exemplary?**Author:** Heather North**Topic:** Discussion: What is Exemplary?**Date:** February 18, 2012 10:02 AM

Hi Lita,

I reviewed some of the same courses as you and had the same thoughts regarding the familiarity of Course Den. This made me think more about how important it is for students to be comfortable with the "tools" being used to present the information. I think this is true in any type of course..... online, blended, face-to face. I think that by keeping online courses clear and consise, students feel confident that they understand the expectations and requirements for the course.

[Reply](#)[Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:LBrown - What is exemplary?**Author:** Allen McGuire**Topic:** Discussion: What is Exemplary?**Date:** February 18, 2012 2:50 PM

I totally agree. Students should not have to use their class time, whether fully online or not, to try to figure out how the course tools work. The more comfortable a student is in a course, the more confident they will feel in completing the required course work.

[Reply](#)[Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:LBrown - What is exemplary?**Author:** Kenneth Kenny Blum**Topic:** Discussion: What is Exemplary?**Date:** February 22, 2012 11:26 AM

Good point, Allen. I've had a class or two where things weren't where I thought they should be. Anxiety builds fast when you're poking in and out of the Sections trying to find directions for an assignment.

In the GAVS course we evaluated, I like the common format for each module. This made it easy to find the same type of information no matter which module you were in.

[Reply](#)[Forward](#)**Subject:** Re:LBrown - What is exemplary?**Author:** Kaia Alderson**Topic:** Discussion: What is Exemplary?**Date:** February 19, 2012 10:48 AM

I agree that the voice response option would be a great opportunity to build a sense of community within a course. But I think it should never be mandatory. I'm thinking specifically of myself as right now I have a cold and my recorded voice sounds a bit yucky (my Phase 3 video is a great example). Also, I usually respond to discussion questions at work where it's usually not quiet enough to get a good recording. And then there's the students who may have a speech impediment and voice recordings are not a comfortable option for them.

In terms of quality control, I would like to see the culture evolve into one where teachers doing a good job are highlighted versus the "gotcha!" emphasis. Why can't the Chico State exemplary course examples be duplicated on the local level? Videos of great learning activities or walkthrough of effective online elements could be posted internally.

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Subject: Re:LBrown - What is exemplary?

Author: Roger Marsh

Topic: Discussion: What is Exemplary?

Date: February 19, 2012 4:51 PM

I like the voice option for discussions also and the overall emphasis on accessibility.

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