BUILDING COMMUNITY ONLNE

WELCOME THE CLASS

- Introduce yourself through a blog or video.
  - Highlight your interests and passion for the class
  - Share what you are excited and/or nervous about
  - Model what you would like students to do
- Ask students to share about themselves in word or video

BE VISIBLE

- Include a picture or avatar (Moodle, Collaborate, etc.)
- Frequent announcements - weekly
- Provide virtual office hours - synchronously online and on email
  - we don't have to be available per week
  - respond to these questions/conversations in 'real' time
- Participate with students in ice breaker activities - model the way
- Recognize we may have to build connections with our students online even if we had established relationships face-to-face

BE HONEST

- Building community involves connecting regarding common interests as well as the course
- Create an open and safe environment where there is mutual trust
- Pay attention when students introduce themselves
  - find ways to respond to who they are, their interests
- Share that teaching and learning remotely may be a learning experience for all involved
  - focus on learning together and from one another

BE PUNCTUAL

- Start class, office hours, meetings, etc on time
- End class, office hours, meetings, etc as scheduled
- Provide clear communication of turnaround times regarding grading of assignments, midterms, and exams
- Share the format in which feedback will be given, including rubrics where applicable

INVOLVE STUDENTS

- Use a 'snowball' where everybody responds to a question in the chat box at the same time (give question, one minute to respond, then 3-2-1, send)
  - at the opening of class - questions about previous class; what you learned last class/what sticks out the most
  - at the end of class - share what you learned/questions you still have
- Gather feedback from students about how the class is going- use a snowball as above- use polling/survey questions

SIGNING OFF

- Use a common and personal, easy way to end your class es, virtual office hours, etc.
  - so it is clear class has finished
  - and it provides a close
- e.g. 3,2,1 goodbye and wave (tell students to un-mute - so they can say it too)
- Remain online for questions regarding the class for students as needed

Resources

Sano, M. (2019, May 13). How to Build Meaningful Community for Online Learners #DLNchat - EdSurge News. Retrieved from https://www.edsurge.com/news/2019-03-18-how-to-build-meaningful-community-for-online-learners-dlnchat

Top 13 Ways To Create Community In Your Online Course. (2020, May 15). Retrieved from https://www.onlinecoursehow.com/tips/create-community/

Wehler, M. (2018, July 12). Five Ways to Build Community in Online Classrooms - Faculty Focus: Higher Ed Teaching & Learning. Retrieved from https://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/five-ways-to-build-community-in-online-classrooms/

TEACHING & LEARNING CENTRE
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