

BALL STATE + ONLINE



**Collaboration with Instructional Designers:
How social work faculty can leverage
instructional design resources to develop better
online courses**

Background

- Social work is relatively new to the distance education model of course delivery
- The hesitance to adopt online education in particular is largely accounted for concerns over quality in the online classroom (Flynn, et al., 2013)
- Social work education in particular does not consider online education efficacious, believing that online learning has less quality compared to face to face teaching (Blackmon, 2013)

Background

- Distance education is becoming increasingly predominant in our schools and programs
- Currently the use of online courses and technology is implemented into social work curriculum based on the discretion of the faculty (Blackmon, 2013)
- The best online courses are those that are well organized, use a problem centered learning approach, are culturally sensitive, and are engaging to students (Knowles, 1984; Rovai, 2007)

Background

- By capitalizing on expertise from strategic partners in online teaching and learning, such as Instructional Designers, social work programs can incorporate the best strategies for the development of exceptional online courses
- Instructional designers can provide expertise and knowledge of how to present content in a format that supports the pedagogical intent of faculty and instructors

Instructional Designers – What We Do

- Help faculty effectively use the institute's Learning Management System (i.e. Blackboard, Canvas, Desire 2 Learn)
- Help faculty to look for ways to vary activities to provide reinforcement and mastery to accommodate various learning styles (i.e., reading assignments, science labs, class discussion, case studies, role playing, presentations, and practice quizzes, test etc.)

Instructional Designers – What We Do

- Research and test technology that can be used to encourage:
 - Student-faculty interaction
 - Cooperation and collaboration among students
 - Promote active learning
- Verify courses meet institutional standards
 - FERPA
 - ADA

Helping Faculty To Include:

- Authentic activities - virtual trips, labs, case studies
- Align objectives to help students know why they are learning
- Demonstration of original thought (Title 34)

Subject Matter Expert

- The faculty member provides the course expertise
 - Controls the course content
 - Determines how the course will be delivered
- The SME (social worker) provides the ‘meat’ of the course
 - Connections to the larger curriculum
 - Accreditation standards and assessments
 - Practice
 - Code of Ethics
- The ID and SME work together to connect the design of the course to the delivery

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Example: SOCW 300 - Social Work Practice II

- Generalist practice with organizations and communities

The screenshot shows a Blackboard LMS interface for the course 'SOCW 300 - Social Work Practice II'. The left-hand navigation menu includes options like 'DevSOCW300', 'Announcements', 'Instructor Info', 'Syllabus', 'Bibliography', 'Resources', 'Course Content', 'Collaborate', 'Discussion Board', 'Email Instructor', 'My Grades', 'Blackboard Help', 'Writing Center', 'Student Support Services', 'Blackboard Collaborate and IM', 'Blackboard IM (iChat)', 'iVirtual Proctoring Service', and 'COURSE MANAGEMENT' (Control Panel, Content Collection, Course Tools, Evaluation, Grade Center, Users and Groups, Customization, Packages and Utilities, Help). The main content area has a header with three images: a classroom scene labeled 'Social Work 300', a diagram of three overlapping circles labeled 'Social Work Practice II' (with levels: Societal/Cultural, Organizational, Group/Individual), and a group photo labeled 'Social Work Practice II'. Below the header is an 'Announcements' section with a 'Create Announcement' button and a list of announcements. The first announcement is a 'Welcome!' message posted on Tuesday, July 8, 2014, at 4:52:18 PM EDT, with instructions for getting started. The second announcement is 'Guidelines for Assignments' posted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at 4:46:37 PM EDT. The footer contains copyright information for 2014 Blackboard Inc.

Questions?

References

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