Teaching Students Who Aren't There: The Challenge and Promise of Teaching ALP Online Jo Darden-Obi

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Because students are diverse in terms of computer literacy, I found the following practices helpful:

- "Orientation Phone Calls"- during the first week of classes, if possible
 - o Course "walk-throughs" on the phone or in my office
 - Weekly Online Office Hours- to answer any technology or content related questions
- Browser Checks- Make sure students set up their browser for compatibility
- Computer and Word Processor Availability- You can't do the course from a smart phone!
- Withdrawal Recommendations- If students don't have regular access to a computer and word processor or don't feel comfortable on the computer, success is not as likely...

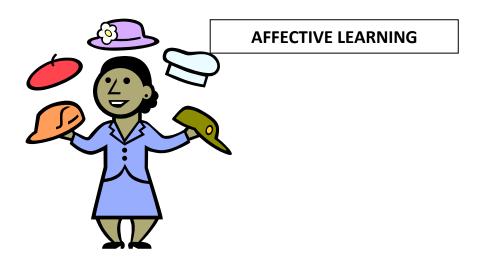
WHAT I MIGHT TWEAK IN THE FUTURE:

- Orientation Activities for the Discussion Board and Assignments features will be included in the course and will be mandatory in the first unit
- Discuss a better description in the course catalogue and an online orientation for students PRIOR to registering for the course
- Can you engage a student who isn't there, from the very beginning? Not so much. I'm working on coming to terms with this concept.

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So many students are engaged in a juggling act-- trying to manage school, work, children, finances and a variety of other activities can be challenging. It can help for students to understand their resources. I developed the following activities to address affective learning:

- Web Links- Links to all resources available to students at CCBC
 - o Interactive Videos- Financial Aide and Completion Agenda
 - Financial Aide- FAQ's and contact info; links to Green Cards on new FAFA rules
- Research Essay on Prescription Drugs- After a brainstorm on the discussion board of pressing issues, students chose prescription drugs (antidepressants and Benzodiazepines) as a pressing issue worthy of research
- Research Essay on Student Loan Debt- We posed the question, "Is a college education worth more than student loan debt?"

WHAT I MIGHT TWEAK IN THE FUTURE:

- Add a link for Mortgages and Interest Rates and Home Loansvb
- Find an app to help students calculate their credit scores

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SOCIAL INTERACTION

That social aspect of learning is crucial to student success, but implementing that component can get tricky online. I created many opportunities for students to interact with me and with other classmates. The following ideas worked best:

- Random Lists and Pics- an ice breaker where students shared 10 random facts about themselves and posted pics of themselves on the discussion board
- Online Office Hours Happy Hour- On Sundays from 5-6pm, I was available online, live.
 Students got extra credit for showing up during this time to discuss the "Question of the Week."
- The Photo Narrative Essay- Students wrote a narrative essay about a person, place, thing, or event depicted in a personal pic. Students shared three pics and voted to determine which pic their classmates would write about.

WHAT I MIGHT TWEAK IN THE FUTURE:

- Devise Happy Hour groups and have them decide the Question of the Week
- There is a blog feature that I am wondering how to implement...