Nursing Informatics Learning Activity

Online Learning, Moodle and Textbooks

OVERVIEW

Many post-secondary students discover that there is significantly more to read than there was in high school or previous on-campus studies. Students frequently remark that they don't have enough time to read through all of their assignments during the week. Using active reading techniques can be helpful in focusing energy on the task. As well, various study skills are critical to ensure superior learning and retention, such as time management, effective note-writing and test-taking, stress management, schedule organization, prevention of test and overall anxiety, and so on.

"Academic honesty is the principle that forms the foundation for scholarship and intellectual ownership. Kwantlen Polytechnic University expects all students to uphold this principle and considers any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, as a serious educational offence." (KPU, n.d., p.1).

The BSN-AE courses are offered in a hybrid or blended course format through residencies at Kwantlen, practice within health care agencies and communities, combined with distributed or online learning formats, taking advantage of the well- developed higher order thinking skills of a baccalaureate graduate. Hybrid courses are those in which a significant portion of the learning activities have been moved online, and time traditionally spent in the classroom is reduced but not eliminated. The goal of hybrid courses is to join the best features of face-to-face teaching with the best features of online learning to promote active, independent learning, and reduce place-bound learning. Using computer-based technologies, faculty use the hybrid model to redesign some lecture or laboratory content into online learning activities, such as case studies, tutorials, self-testing exercises, simulations, and online group collaborations.

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In the BSN-AE program, the Moodle (Modular Object Oriented Developmental Learning Environment) Learning Management System (LMS) is the central technological layer. All of the program course content is presented using Moodle, providing an over-story layer of content and interaction. "Moodle is an open source LCMS application (learning

content management system) based on the didactic principle of constructivism. In Moodle learners construct their individual learning situation by interacting with educational material provided by teachers." (Rákóczi & Pohl, 2009, p. 467). The Moodle system is a very sophisticated LMS that affords a variety of learning modules that teachers can use to engage with students, including forums, wikis, journals, uploaded assignments, group work, chat rooms, workshops, lessons, polls, databases, glossaries, quizzes, SCORM and IMS packages, surveys, and Lightbox galleries. Content can be organized as pages and books with added files, folders and web links.

The **"Situating"** book section provides an overview of each learning activity's content topic as well as the outcomes for the week's lesson.

The **"Preparing"** book section outlines the required readings and other activities such as videos to watch or online resources to access.

The **"Engaging"** section provides detailed directions on the required activities for that week, including iPad and app activities such as creating visual models, designing teaching materials, accessing lifestyle and nutrition apps or ibooks and so on. This is also the section where SIMs lab directives, practice guides or Mahara activity directives are provided.

Finally, the **"Reflecting"** book section provides questions related to the learning activity content for students to reflect upon and digest.

Within these four sections, various activities are engaged in that follow the Moodle philosophy of social constructivism. "Social constructivism extends constructivism into social settings, wherein groups construct knowledge for one another, collaboratively creating a small culture of shared artifacts with shared meanings. When one is immersed within a culture like this, one is learning all the time about how to be a part of that culture, on many levels." (Moodle 2.4 Philosophy, 2012).

As well, the Moodle course sites provide access to other important documents and information to support smooth course functioning. These include a downloadable syllabus of the course content (in case of technological glitches or failure), course

outlines, rubrics for assessment, assignment details, and a student question forum for interaction with the assigned faculty.

Moodle is easy for students to use and can be accessed using any web browser (Amaral & de Almeida, 2009). "The most favourable thing students highlighted is the accessibility of available teaching material and exercises from virtually anywhere without geographical restrictions. Other benefits they highlighted are collection of all the teaching material in one place and the possibility of being informed about important issues regarding the courses they attend, such as grading changes and availability of the teaching material. This functionality is provided through Moodle's integrated mailing services tightly connected to discussion forums" (Hölbl & Welzer, 2010, p.65).

Program Textbooks

The BSN-AE program uses electronic textbooks and online resources whenever possible, so that readings and practice activities can be done on the students' computers and iPads. This facilitates access to readings from anywhere when using the mobile technology, including practice areas (hospitals, community, and so on). Students have access to resources at their fingertips, without having to carry huge nursing textbooks to their clinical practice areas (Parsons, 2014). Medication and pathophysiology reference materials are also readily available on their tablets (Williams & Dittmer, 2009).
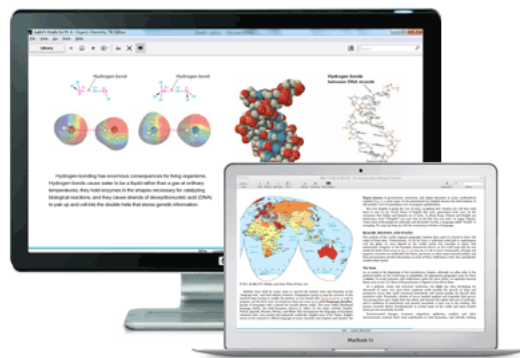
Electronic textbooks tend to cost less than printed books, they are more ecologically sound, (Gattiker et al, 2012) and they are easy to download (Swilley, 2012; Stone & Baker-Eveleth, 2013; Murray & Pérez, 2011). Another important bonus of e-textbooks is the ability to annotate the textbook directly on the device. When done on an iPad, this annotation can be done easily with the tip of a finger (Kim et al, 2013).

"Tablet technology has entered the classroom through devices such as the iPad. Instead of opening a bound textbook for class, students access digital textbooks and resources that contain interactive media and provide immediate feedback. The content is the same as a textbook, but the layout and pictures go beyond static images. Colorful, interactive diagrams, photos, and videos fill the screen. Students can explore and manipulate a 3-D picture of the human brain or enlarge text and photos. The tablet allows students to highlight text, take notes, and navigate through text by sliding a finger along the bottom of the screen. These intuitive, interactive features are appealing to students," (Pilgrim et al, 2012, p. 17).

Most of the electronic textbooks are packaged with online resources, such as labs, case studies, quizzes, Power Points, critical thinking exercises, graphics, videos, and the like.

Access to these resources makes learning more enjoyable and comprehensive. When you purchase the online textbook editions (or some printed textbooks), you gain access to these resources. You are encouraged to take full advantage of these supplementary resources. Some courses will require you to do so, especially Practice and Praxis courses

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This learning activity is intended to give the learner the opportunity to:

- analyze own study skills and readiness for hybrid learning

- explore study skill tools available through KPU counseling

- adopt the principles outlined in the KPU Academic Integrity policy

- review the Academic Integrity and Plagiarism tutorial from KPU library

- explore the BSN-AE 3500 and Central Circle Moodle sites

- recognize the basic structure of the Moodle LMS

- describe online learning strategies to promote success in the program

- analyze own study skills and readiness for hybrid learning

- Explore the textbooks required for the BSN-AE program

- Browse the online resources that accompany the required textbooks

- Explore note-taking, highlighting, and other functional advantages of electronic textbooks.

- Analyze sufficiency of their existing textbooks for medicine and surgery rotations

PREPARATION

EXPLORE: Consider your own study skills and review the
KPU *Learning Aids Handouts* available
at https://www.kpu.ca/learningcentres/learning-aids

READ: KPU Policy on *Academic Integrity* and KPU Procedure
for dealing with Academic Integrity Violations.

COMPLETE: KPU Library's Academic Integrity and *Plagiarism
Tutorial* at: https://libguides.kpu.ca/plagiarism

EXPLORE: the Moodle course management system for this course and the BSN-AE
Central Circle.

READ: Illinois Online Network. (n.d.). *Tips for Online success.*

http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/tips.asp

READ: Kaminski, J. (2007). *Tips for Successful Online Learning.*

http://www.nursing-informatics.com/tips_success.pdf

EXPLORE THE RESOURCES: on *Active Reading* from Dartmouth College at

https://students.dartmouth.edu/academic-skills/learning-resources/learning-
strategies/reading-techniques

EXPLORE: Consider your own study skills and review the KPU *Learning Aids
Handouts* available at

https://www.kpu.ca/learningcentres/learning-aids

DOWNLOAD AND REVIEW: the BSN-AE Required Textbook Lists

VIEW VIDEO: ElsevierStudentLife. (2019). How to Access eBook Resources.
https://youtu.be/iUz-mBL9his

VIEW VIDEO: VitalSource. (2020). Purchasing Digital Textbooks on VitalSource
https://youtu.be/lsytl2QLPMA

ONLINE ACTIVITIES

Online Learning Readiness & Study Skills Forum

Take the online survey (and copy your results into a Word document) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at http://tutorials.istudy.psu.edu/learningonline/ORQ/ORQ.htm

What will be your biggest challenge in transitioning to online semesters?

Add two goals and two ways to meet these goals to the Forum for this Learning Activity.

Also, choose one Learning Aids resource that had personal meaning for you from https://www.kpu.ca/learningcentres/learning-aids

Summarize it on the same Forum.

REFLECTION

What do you need to do to cultivate superior study skills?

What strategies will you try to support this cultivation?

What strategies will you adopt to ensure you do not engage in plagiarism and maintain academic integrity?

Create a visual map for yourself of the landmarks in this course and the program.

Where do you go to connect with other students? The instructor?

How do you enter the Moodle and PebblePad spaces?

REFERENCES

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