

# Incorporating Interactivity into Distance Learning and Hybrid Courses

**Michelle E. Alvarez, M.S.W., Ed.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Social Work

# Purpose of Project

As I begin to teach hybrid and online courses at MSU,M, I wanted to revisit the use of interactivity in distance learning. Information gathered has been, and will be incorporated into courses.



# Literature Review

- Interactivity
- Instructional Learning Tools

# Interactivity

- Virtual experts or guest lecturers (Cauble & Thurston, 2000; Teh, 1999; Mioduser, Nachmias, Lahav and Oren 2000)
- Virtual field trips or interacting with students in another country (Light, Nesbitt, Light & Burns, 2000; Batson & Bass, 1996)
- Interactive puzzles or games (Carpenter, Wolfe, Ricketts and Norvelle, 1999)

# Interactivity cont.

- Self-tests (Stocks & Freddolino, 2000)
- Creation of online portfolios (Eastmond, 2000)
- Peer learning activities such as study groups and projects (Boud, Cohen & Sampson , 1999; Ciardulli, 1998; Brandon & Hollingshead, 1999)
- Case studies (Bellefeuille 2006)
- Word puzzles (Bellefeuille 2006)

# Instructional Learning Tools

- Course calendars and lecture notes (Wernet, 2000; Cooper, 2000; Hsu, 1999)
- Online study guides or study questions (Carr-Chellman & Duchaster, 2000; Stocks & Freddolino, 2000)
- Online examples (Carr-Chelman, 2000)
- Scheduled online review sessions before exams (Cooper, 2000)

# Instructional Tools cont

- Personal web page (Schoech, 2000) to introduce students to classmates
- FAQ's (Durrington, Berryhill & Swafford 2006)
- Use of discussion board that prompts critical thinking (Bellefeuille 2006; Durrington, Berryhill & Swafford 2006; Everhart 2000; Hiltz and Wellman 1997; Stocks & Freddolino 2000)

# Formatting Assignments

- Clear description of assignment (Durrington, Berryhill & Swafford 2006; Muirhead 2001)
- Directions for submitting assignment
- Rubric with grading criteria (Andrade 2005; Knowles 2003)
- Technical resources (access to D2L, library databases, links to Real Player and Quick Time, if needed) (Mantyla 2000; Phillips 2005)
- Provide personalized feedback to students (Durrington, Berryhill & Swafford 2006; Phillips 2005)
- Evaluation of selected teaching methods