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## **Distance Education Lesson Design**

If I were to create an online unit in my field, I would create an online literature unit for high school students. I would use a format such as WebCT to deliver the unit. The objective of the unit would be to teach the students about a period of literature, such as 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature, and have them research, classify and explain aspects of this movement. The students would also be required to reflect on what they had learned in class through the use of a classroom blog, participate in class discussion through the discussion board, submit assignments online, and work cooperatively. I would also incorporate multimedia projects in the unit so that students have a chance to learn and practice new technologies.

I would set up my course page with various links to areas such as a homepage where students could find information about me and information about the course. I would also add a resource page. On this page, I would post any resources that I thought would come in handy for my students. Some possible resources would be a definition of literary terms, writing guides, examples of assignments, links to useful websites, links to libraries, a bibliography of alternate texts, and a list of errors to avoid when writing.

There would be a link to the discussion board, where students would participate in weekly discussions based on topics I have chosen that relate to the weeks' lesson. The students would be responsible for checking the discussion board every week and making sure that they follow guidelines for posting a proper response. There would also be a link to a site where students could blog about class. They could post questions, concerns, complaints, ideas, and their feelings about anything pertaining to class. I would also ask students to write a weekly journal entry reflecting on the week's lesson. This could be submitted confidentially to me so that students would feel confident that their feelings and opinions were safe.

I would like to incorporate multimedia into the class curriculum. One way to accomplish this might be to post film clips of movies that have to do with the literature we are reading, such as a clip from the movie *The Lord of the Flies* if we were reading that book. I would also post video lectures so that students could put my name with my face and feel more like they were interacting with me. I would have students use software such as *Inspiration* to create concept maps and outlines for papers, *MovieMaker* to create short videos for group projects, and PowerPoint to deliver lessons to each other. Students could also work collaboratively using Google Docs or a Wiki Space. Photostory would be a good program to have the students use to create photo journals or “documentaries” about the books they have read.

On the course page, students would have access to their grades, upcoming assignments, the course calendar, and any lecture notes. I know that students like to keep track of their progress in class, so I would try and post grades regularly. I also want the students to be able to manage their time effectively and work ahead if they want to. Students would also have access to any rubrics that I would use to grade their assignments so that they could make sure that they are meeting my standards for a well done assignment. Students would most likely have a textbook for all of the readings, but I would try and supplement each reading with either a lecture, a video, a PowerPoint, a worksheet, or a discussion so that students could learn the material from various types of instruction rather than just reading their book. I would also have a link to their quizzes and tests, although I believe that much of their assessment would be based on their writing, class participation, and the completion of the multimedia projects. I would not have too many subjective tests.

When designing the course, I would try to keep the course site as updated as possible and incorporate as much technology into the class as I could. I believe that an online course can be as effective as a traditional classroom course if the students are provided with a multitude of different types of activities that challenge and engage the students. With this method, students with different learning styles all have many opportunities to participate in the class as well as prove what they know through various forms of assessment. As long as the course objectives

are clear, and the site is well managed and easily navigated, I believe that I could provide the students with an enriching and valuable learning experience.