Synchronous v. Asynchronous Formats

Caren M. Stalburg, MD MA
Clinical Assistant Professor
Obstetrics and Gynecology and Medical Education

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Intended Learning Outcomes

- Describe the advantages of both synchronous and asynchronous formats
- Consider the inherent challenges of synchronous and asynchronous formats
Synchronous Distance Learning

• Occurs in real time between participants
• Various modalities
  – Chat
  – E-mail in real-time
  – Video-conferencing
• Scheduled
  ❖ CLASSROOM???
Asynchronous Distance Learning

• Learners engage with material at own pace
• Information may be more static than real time
• Discussion occurs in forums
• May be a delay in response or clarification
• Scalability

❖ TEXTBOOK??
Mixed-modalities

- On line materials provided to all learners
- Scheduled ‘real time’ interactions
- Learners create resources for later real time discussions
- “Create your own adventure”
E-learning

• Different technology, but like most familiar media

• Requirements?
  – Typing skills
  – Common language
  – Technical knowledge

• Intentional use!
Distance learning

Positives
• Time
• Variety of content
• Independent
• Pace of learning
• Scalability

Challenges
• Access
• Reliability
• Creating community?
• Technical skills
• Static environment
Learning Management Systems

• Provides an infrastructure for:
  – Content
  – Discussion
  – Assignments
  – Assessment
  – Grading
  – Tracking

  • Moodle.org
    (Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment)
  • Blackboard.com
  • Coursera.org