

# Synchronous v. Asynchronous Formats

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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
    - *Moodle.org*  
(*Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment*)
  - Discussion
  - Assignments
    - *Blackboard.com*
  - Assessment
    - *Coursera.org*
  - Grading
  - Tracking