Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning

Choosing the Best Learning Approach

**Asynchronous Learning**

**What is it?**
This learning environment involves learning activities that do not occur at the same time or same place.

**What could it look like?**
pre-recorded videos or lessons, discussion boards, & online games & quizzes

**What are the benefits?**
- Offers more flexibility
- Students can operate at their own pace
- More accessible options
- Students can demonstrate their knowledge & share their diverse perspectives
- Teachers’ attention can be evenly distributed to all of their students

**Considerations:**
- Have clear & visible instructions
- Maximize student-teacher & student-student interactivity
- Provide pacing suggestions for time management
- Provide assessment rubrics and multiple feedback opportunities
- Ensure materials are accessible & well-organized

**Synchronous Learning**

**What is it?**
This learning environment involves LIVE learning activities that occur at the same time.

**What could it look like?**
LIVE class & lab sessions, LIVE reading groups, labs, small group discussions, & think-pair-share collaborative activities

**What are the benefits?**
- More possibilities to build a learning community & boost participation
- Real-time collaboration & immediate feedback
- Easier to build a learning community
- Body language & tone of voice are more visible

**Considerations:**
- Use interactive & collaborative activities to increase active participation
- Use discussion prompts & polls to avoid lengthy lectures
- Maximize screen share opportunities
- Invite guest speakers
- Strategically take breaks

**Blending Asynchronous and Synchronous Learning**

**What are the benefits?**
This learning environment amplifies learning by using both synchronous and asynchronous learning methods.

**What could it look like?**
Flipped classroom model; lab rotation model; station rotation model; individual rotation model

**What are the benefits?**
- Positions students to be more prepared for their synchronous learning
- Students are given some control in how (provided learning pathways), when (flexible times and student’s pace), and where (from any location) they complete their learning tasks

References: