Online Courses for Multilingual Students

Challenges and Opportunities
Abstract

Online course offerings for ESL students provide challenges and opportunities for instructors. This presentation will include reflections from teaching ESL students online, including successes, challenges, dilemmas, and results. Best practices and future directions will also be explored.
Introduction

Michael Westwood

Bakersfield College, English for Multilingual Students (EMLS) Department

~10 years teaching

Some previous online teaching
EMLS B51

Recommended for international and multilingual students who need to improve reading comprehension and build vocabulary in English. Emphasis is on identifying main ideas, summarizing, inferring, analyzing, drawing comparisons, and developing more advanced vocabulary by reading complex academic and literary texts. Prepares students for college level reading.
Preparation

Full semester training through BC

OEI Rubric

Design Tools
Week #1
Introduction video
Orientation module
Technology survey
Icebreaker
Welcome to Week 7 of EMLS B51!

This week you will read "The Barrio" by Ernesto Galarza. This essay has some similarities with the one we read last week, and I hope you all enjoy it. My suspicion is that you will either relate to the content in some way, or it will expand your mind by challenging you to analyze aspects of your own culture. I hope you enjoy the videos I included this week, both of which touch on the theme of community that you will find as you read.

Also, I know that many of you are enjoying A Place to Stand. We are in the midst of exciting chapters where we start to see Baca transforming before our very eyes as he heals from the hurts of the past and starts to find his true identity.

I enjoyed reading your Article Summaries! You chose a wide variety of articles, which made grading these more interesting. I also enjoyed reading about things that interested you. I did want to point out the importance of carefully reading assignment instructions and also looking at sample assignments that I post. As you complete more complex assignments with higher point values, you will want to ensure you do your best work. I try to make my expectations and the grading criteria clear. If you are ever unsure, please reach out. I will be happy to look at works in progress and provide feedback.

Enjoy your studies this week!

Video

A Barrio Story
Readings and Exercises

1. Mosaics: The Barrio
2. A Place to Stand: Chapter 9
3. Getting a Fix on Vocabulary: Lessons 13 and 14

Collaborative Activities

- The Barrio Forum

Assignments

- The Barrio Analysis Questions
- A Place to Stand Reading Guide: Chapter 9
- Getting a Fix on Vocabulary Quiz 7: Lessons 13-14

Looking Ahead

At the end of Week 9, the Synthesis Project is due. I am attaching a direct link to the assignment description and rubric. Please let me know if you have questions about this assignment.

Also, remember that online tutoring is available through NetTutor. The guide attached below provides information about how to get started with that.

NetTutor - Student Guide.pdf
Why did you choose to take this course online instead of face to face? Check all that apply.

- An online class provides me with more work, family, and personal flexibility.
- I prefer learning online over learning face to face.
- I prefer face to face learning, but I was unable to register for a face to face section.
- I think it will be easier.
- I wanted a challenge.
- Other...
Technology Survey

Why did you choose to take this course online instead of face to face?
Check all that apply.

15 responses

- An online class provides me with more w... - 14 (93.3%)
- I prefer face to face learning, but I w... - 3 (20%)
- I think it will be easier. - 2 (13.3%)
- I wanted a challenge. - 2 (13.3%)
- With having disabilities it is easier f... - 1 (6.7%)
- - 1 (6.7%)
Technology Survey

How do you feel about technology in general?

1. I hate it. It always confuses and frustrates me.
2. 3.
3. 4.
4. 5.
5. I love it and am able to use it easily.

Which of the following best describes your access to the Internet? *

- I have regular internet access through school, home, work, cell phone plan, etc.
- I only have internet access on campus and through my cell phone plan.
- I only have internet access on campus.
Technology Survey

How do you feel about technology in general?

15 responses

- 0 (0%)
- 1 (6.7%)
- 3 (20%)
- 5 (33.3%)
- 6 (40%)
Technology Survey

Which of the following best describes your access to the Internet?

15 responses

- 86.7%: I have regular internet access through school, home, work, cell phone plan, etc.
- 13.3%: I only have internet access on campus and through my cell phone plan.
- I only have internet access on campus.
Technology Survey

Which of the following best describes your familiarity with Canvas?

15 responses

- 60%: I have used Canvas in the past and am comfortable using it to take quizzes, submit assignments, etc.
- 26.7%: I have used Canvas in the past, but am not completely comfortable with it.
- 13.3%: I have not used Canvas before.
Technology Survey

Which of the following are you comfortable doing? Check all that apply.

15 responses

- Sending/Receiving emails: 14 (93.3%)
- Downloading/Uploading files: 13 (86.7%)
- Creating documents in Microsoft Word: 11 (73.3%)
- Creating PowerPoint presentations: 8 (53.3%)
- Downloading phone apps: 10 (66.7%)
- Using social media: 11 (73.3%)
- Texting: 12 (80%)
Which of the following devices and programs do you have regular access to? Check all that apply.

15 responses

- Personal computer or laptop: 12 (80%)
- Tablet: 7 (46.7%)
- Smart phone: 13 (86.7%)
- Microsoft Office: 7 (46.7%)
- Google Docs: 7 (46.7%)
Post Week #1 Thoughts

Diversity of class
Shifting numbers
Low submission rate
Week 4 Check-In

How are you feeling about your chances of success in this class?

10 responses

- 0 (0%)
- 1 (10%)
- 2 (0%)
- 4 (40%)
- 5 (50%)
Week 4 Check-In

How much time are you spending on this class each week?

10 responses

- 90% Less than 3 hours
- 10% 3-6 hours
- 10% 6-9 hours
- 10% More than 9 hours
How are you completing most of your assignments (e.g. forums, analysis questions, reading guides, quizzes)?

10 responses

- 100% on a desktop or laptop computer
Week 4 Check-In

Are you encountering technical difficulties as you complete your work?

10 responses

90% Yes
10% No
Is there anything I should know as I try to help you succeed in this course?

10 responses

No

before the class starts you could show a video about how to submit the assignments.

There is only one aspect of English that I am not fond of, and that is reading. I do find the texts you chose for us to be easier to comprehend, because it is short stories and interesting.

no fine as it is

No, there is not

no everything it good

what if i miss an assignment

none
Why did you take this course?

10 responses

To help towards my goal of Heath information Technology Billing & Coding
I need this course because I need it for my child development
it was recommended for my reading level.
Honestly, I took this course to be considered a full-time student and receive the financial aid.
to improve my reading skills
This course is required for my current major
i need the reading to help me with my spelling
It's a mandatory course for me to complete
to improve my reading comprehension
for the requirement
Do you have any suggestions for things I should change in this course the next time it is offered?

10 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wouldn't change anything about this course. I love the books you chose for us to read and I especially like that everything is due on one day, rather than an assignment everyday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It would be better if I don't have to reply to two person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Is there anything you are finding particularly enjoyable about this course?

10 responses

I enjoy that you are very evolved with your students

I love the story's

all in this course is good, but in particular the books are very nice. I love the Mosaicos Reader.

I enjoy the Mosaica book we are reading. I enjoy the short stories, they are easier for me to comprehend, as comprehension is not my strong suit.

everything is great love the stories.

No

yes Aplace to stand

I'm learning little by little as it's taking me a little longer than usual to learn something new on this course

the book "A PLACE TO STAND"

I like quizzes
Challenges

Blatant plagiarism
Lack of participation/communication
Poor group work
Not following directions
Student attrition
Results from the Final

What grade do you expect to receive in this course?

7 responses

- A: 57.1%
- B: 14.3%
- C: 28.6%
- D: 28.6%
- F: 14.3%
Results from the Final

Were you aware that the forums required both an initial post and responses to peers?

7 responses

- Yes: 85.7%
- No: 14.3%
Results from the Final

Did you read comments I made on your submitted work?

7 responses

- Yes: 85.7%
- No: 14.3%
- Sometimes: 0%
Results from the Final

On average, how much time did you spend on this class each week?

7 responses

- 57.1% Less than 3 hours
- 28.6% 3-6 hours
- 14.3% 6-9 hours
- 0% More than 9 hours
Results from the Final

How easy was it to navigate this course, specifically, how it was laid out in Canvas?

7 responses
Results from the Final

We completed the following activities in class. Please check all that you found enjoyable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Count (Percentage)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Place to Stand Reading</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6 (85.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guides</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 (57.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosaics Analysis Questions</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4 (57.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosaics Forums</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Summary Project</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 (14.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Synthesis Project</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 (14.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting a Fix on Vocabulary</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6 (85.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room for Debate Project</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 (28.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learner Led Activity</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 (28.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonely Planet Activity</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 (28.6%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results from the Final

We completed the following activities in class. Please check all that you found educationally valuable.

7 responses

- A Place to Stand Reading Guides: 5 (71.4%)
- Mosaics Analysis Questions: -2 (28.6%)
- Mosaics Forums: -1 (14.3%)
- Article Summary Project: 4 (57.1%)
- Article Synthesis Project: -3 (42.9%)
- Getting a Fix on Vocabulary: -3 (42.9%)
- Quizzes: 6 (85.7%)
- Room for Debate Project: 4 (57.1%)
- Learner Led Activity: -2 (28.6%)
- Lonely Planet Activity: -2 (28.6%)
Results from the Final

We completed the following activities in class. Please check all that you found confusing.

7 responses

- A Place to Stand Reading Guides: 0 (0%)
- Mosaics Analysis Questions: 1 (14.3%)
- Mosaics Forums: 1 (14.3%)
- Article Summary Project: -2 (28.6%)
- Article Synthesis Project: -2 (28.6%)
- Getting a Fix on Vocabulary Quizzes: 0 (0%)
- Room for Debate Project: -2 (28.6%)
- Learner Led Activity: 5 (71.4%)
- Lonely Planet Activity: 5 (71.4%)
Results from the Final

I posted several videos throughout the semester to guide students through complex projects. Were these helpful?

7 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results from the Final

One thing that surprised me this semester was that some students simply did not submit assignments, causing significant reductions to their grades. Did you submit all of your assignments? If not, what stopped you?

7 responses

I haven't submitted the Synthesis project because I don't understand the video loading and put back to back in video forms, till later I ask around outside of class, they'd show me but its too late, the assignment is closed. There for extra credit would be helpful in case that happen.

No. I either forgot about them or was extremely busy with my other four courses and work that day.

i didn't submit all my assignments at the beginning i was confuse on the due date.

Yes, I believe I did submit all assignments

YES

Yes, I did it, and nothing stop me because I wanted to learn.

I did not submit all assignments due to my time schedule. I usually tend to submit all assignments on time, but this semester my work schedule really really got in the way of it.
Results from the Final

Another thing that surprised me was how difficult it was for students to work in groups. Why do you think that was?

7 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It's difficult to work in groups because we're not live on the screen but typing to one another and its worries of who should do what and which one of us will post it or if it was done right by other or not.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think it was difficult because it was online and we couldn't actually meet in person to discuss the assignment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe it was because they didn't want to participate as a group, but others students have other ways to help in projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some people don't work well in groups. Students need to realize teamwork is what is needed in society especially in a work environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students take online class because they want to be flexible with their times. However, working in group requires meeting. As a result, working in group is not worked out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe that some students didn't take the class seriously. Another assumption may be that many students were busy working and they don't have time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I definitely agree that it was quite difficult for us to work in groups due to communication. We all tend to have something to do throughout the day working, running errands, or having children to take care of so having to log into our inside Bc email and communicate through there is quite time consuming plus can be confusing on coming to conclusion on who does what in it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Results from the Final

What changes do you think I should make to the course to make it a better experience for students next semester?

7 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avoid synthesis project and group activities cause its an online coarse, which make it hard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would possibly change the instruction on the group assignments those were unclear to me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe that you did a great job, it's just in the student side of participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think you taught very well. It really helped that you were very responsive with questions asked in a timely matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think this class should not have group project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I think you need to oftenly remind students that working in groups is necessary, and they need take it seriously. Another thing that you could do is to give each person in a group their specific part, or ask if they agree with your conditions before they start the assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I believe you were great in giving specific directions on each assignment, but maybe with group projects have another form of communication for students to come together through, but overall you were great help with everything in it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What advice would you give to a student who was doing to take this class next semester?

7 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do all project cause there's no extra credit or a few point for trying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be prepared to read.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My opinion i would tell them to pay attention on due dates and to participate in all activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do your best, make sure you submit your homework and respond to your peers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage your time and try to finish your assignment on time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I really recomend all them to read the syllabus and think about it before starting the assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would definitely say to try and make time on turning all assignments in and on time and you will most definitely pass the class with a great grade in it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Results from the Final**

**What was the most enjoyable aspect of this course for you?**

7 responses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only reading and answering questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading the &quot;A Place to Stand&quot; novel, I would have never picked that book up if it wasn't for this course and I enjoyed it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What I enjoyed in this course was reading a place to stand and I learned to do projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading the novel A Place to Stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment's deadline is consistent so I can remember it easily.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading the book A Place to Stand because it was interesting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would definitely have to say I enjoyed the quizzes as they taught me a lot throughout this course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes for Spring 2019

More comprehensive orientation

Address plagiarism and source use

Screencast for each assignment/assignment type

Permalink to online office hours

Mandatory office hour/meeting
More Changes for Spring 2019

Introduce collaborative tools

Simplify projects

Add open ended reflections to each group assignment

Increase media

Add quizzes
Assignment Links

Article Summary

Jigsaw Debate

Learner Led Activity

Lonely Planet Travel Game

Synthesis Project

Sample Synthesis Project
Resources

California Community Colleges (n.d.). Online course design standards. Retrieved from https://cvc.edu/faculty-resources/professional-development/online-course-design-standards/

