Online Teaching Assistants: Facilitating and Planning Online Classes

Learning Outcomes

- Recall and apply pedagogical best practices for online teaching.

Module Description

This module is intended for Teaching Assistants (TAs) in online courses who are responsible for the facilitation of online courses (i.e., design and/or facilitation responsibilities including full classes and discussion sections)**.** TAs in other roles, such as those assisting with synchronous sessions, grading, office hours, etc. do not need to complete this module and should complete the module *Assisting Faculty in Online Courses*.

I.   Watch Video: Introduction

II.   Reading: Nilson, L. B. & Goodson, L. A. (2017). Applying cognitive science to online teaching and learning strategies. In L. B. Nilson & L. A. Goodson, *Online teaching at its best: Merging instructional design with teaching and learning research* (pp. 79-106). Wiley.

    a.   Please read pp 79-82, inclusive, which are a list of *Twenty-Five Principles of Learning from Cognitive Science* The list includes research-based principles from cognitive science about how students learn best, and what the implications are for course instructors. Feel free to read further for thorough explanations of each principle.

III.   Video 2: Wrap Up

IV.   Reflection Questions

      a.   What are some instructional strategies to consider when planning an online course that maximizes student engagement?

      b.   Why is testing to prepare for an exam a good studying strategy? How does what we know about learning translate to our teaching strategies?

Additional Readings

- Nilson, L. B. & Goodson, L. A. (2017). Applying cognitive science to online teaching and learning strategies. In L. B. Nilson & L. A. Goodson, *Online teaching at its best: Merging instructional design with teaching and learning research* (pp. 79-106). Wiley.

- Whiteside, A., Dikkers, A., & Lewis, S. (2014, May 19). The power of social presence for learning. *Educause*.

- French, P. (n.d.). *Teaching online: Basic skills for TAs*. Pressbooks.

Help and Support at AU

- Find answers to existing instructional questions and ask your own on the American University Service Now Learning Support Services website.