



Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning

Teaching Strategies for Enhancing Student Engagement in Online Classes, with Focus on Race

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Rationale:

The teaching strategy is meant to provoke student interest in the week's module (a so called 'hook'). I find that students have trouble focusing on academics since the pandemic started. I get e-mails from them about worrying about jobs being lost, illness, subpar study environments and I see how that can really take a toll on their focus. My demonstration video and deliverables will focus on my Immigration Policy class, INR 4074. I chose INR 4074 because it is a class where I have decided to put an emphasis on the study of race as a key element shaping American Immigration Policy throughout US history. So, I see this class as central to our mission of teaching more about race and diversity at UCF.

Description:

I envision the hook working as a short (1-2 questions) prerequisite survey quiz in Canvas. Students would have to complete it to be able to open that week's module.

For my first Immigration Policy module of the semester, I came up with a survey quiz 'hook' question that asks students what they think the ancestry of most Americans is. I give them five possible answers: English, German, Italian, Irish, Native American. It is likely that students will answer English or Irish.

The correct answer will then open up, and show them the 2010 US Census report that shows that most Americans have German ancestry. This (I think rather surprising revelation) will captivate student's attention and their interest to find out more on the topic, by accessing the module. I also think it will provide a nice focal point on the week's discussion of ancestry and race in American Immigration Policy.

Appraisal:

I have already worked out the technical aspects of setting up the prerequisite survey quiz as a key to opening the actual module, and it works well. At the FCTL Winter Conference, I would use the time at my disposal to work to set up the short prerequisite survey quiz for each module of the upcoming semester, and, more importantly, to come up with the one or two questions (hooks) that I think would be most likely to grab students attention. The video I will put together will present both the technical aspects, as well as the hooks I will create for each module.

References:

N/A