

## 1. What is Asynchronous Learning?

- Allows your students to take online courses on their own schedule
- Provides materials, lectures, tests, and assignments that can be accessed at any time
- Defines a time frame for students in which they need to connect at least once or twice-usually one week
- Allows students the overall freedom to contribute whenever they choose



Email



Recorded Lectures



Discussion Boards



Social Networking

## 2. What is Synchronous Learning?

- Requires students and instructors to be online at the same time
- Prescribes a specific time for virtual office hours, tutoring sessions, and scheduled assignment critiques
- Requires the students to be online at a specific time to participate



Canvas Chat/Conference



Telephone



Kaltura Live Rooms



Webex

## Why Should I Choose Asynchronous vs Synchronous Learning?

Asynchronous strategies benefit students by allowing them more time to form their thoughts and consider all sides of an issue before offering an opinion. They also prevent students from getting overshadowed by faster typists and spontaneous thinkers. Students can work at their own pace and enjoy the flexibility to schedule their studies around their busy lives.

Synchronous strategies allow students access to instantaneous feedback and immediate responses to questions. Virtual office hours, tutoring sessions, and assignment critiques provide the real-time communication your students need to stay engaged and on track.

### Tips

- Decide what your objectives are for using communication
- Inform learners of your expectations for how communication tools will be used as part of the course
- Facilitate and monitor both synchronous and asynchronous dialogue to keep it on topic
- Be aware of those who do not to participate
- Be organized
- Be flexible
- Ensure time for learning how to use communication tools
- Ensure time for interaction
- Outline the rules for participation in your syllabus
- Use audiovisuals when appropriate
- Summarize the major points at the end of each session
- Prepare a contingency plan

## Online education = Asynchronous + Synchronous

Preserve the flexibility and convenience of asynchronous communication while enhancing efficiency and quality of feedback and interaction through synchronous communication.