

December 2012 Distance Learning Newsletter

Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice



D2L UPDATES

Additional D2L training. The Office of Distance Education in the Humanities and Social Sciences will be offering an additional D2L training to faculty and staff on December 11, 2012 at 2pm in BB 496. To sign up please go to <https://computertrain.kennesaw.edu/> and search "HSS".

WEBLEARNERS

The latest report indicates a total of 37 students in the online program, with one set to graduate in December (Jennifer Faye Richards).

DISTANCE LEARNING - ADMINISTRATION

New Assistant Director for the CHSS ODE. Dr. Laura McGrath is stepping down from the Associate Director of the CHSS ODE position in December And the office is advertising for a new assistant director. This position will start in January but if you are interested in applying, Dr. Tammy Powell wants to emphasize that the office will not expect the new incumbent to “jump in with both feet in January”. Please let me know if you have any questions about that position. It will start in January, but I'm aware that faculty schedules are already set for spring 2013, so inability to jump in with both feet in January is not a problem.

Possible Removal of Peer Review for Online Courses. The DLC is going to explore with the faculty the idea, as put forth in a recent Senate Resolution, that online courses no longer be peer reviewed. A survey will be distributed in January to gauge faculty feelings on the issue – please take some time to complete it when you will receive it. However, based on what the DL office knows so far, our ability to offer online courses and charge e-tuition is dependent upon our assuring their quality, which pretty much has to be done with a course review.

Virtual Orientation, Virtual Proctoring and a Testing Center.

The DL office hopes to have a "virtual orientation" for online students very soon and is also exploring virtual proctoring options with companies: <http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/>

- a. <http://vimeo.com/23211809>
- b. <http://vimeo.com/22709795>
- c. <http://vimeo.com/26028960>

In addition, there are plans for a testing center but the center will not serve faculty teaching hybrid courses, though.

Minor in Gender and Women's Studies. As GWST department is set to have the first online minor in CHSS starting in fall 2013, we are thinking to explore the option for an online minor in GWS for our web-learner Sociology majors. Plans are under way to meet with Dr. Laura Davis, coordinator of the "Gender and Women's Studies" Program and Dr. Jessie Benjamin, to discuss level of interest and other preliminary steps.

New Online Teaching Excellence Award

This year there is a new award dedicated to Online Teaching which is part of the Regents' Teaching Excellence Awards and Regents' Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Awards. These awards, in general, are an important way for the System to focus on the importance of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, and to recognize and reward teaching excellence on campuses. Guidelines and submission procedures for the Online Teaching Award are now available at:

http://www.usg.edu/faculty_affairs/awards/regents_teaching_excellence_awards_for_online_teaching_call_for_nominations

Deadline is May 31st, 2013