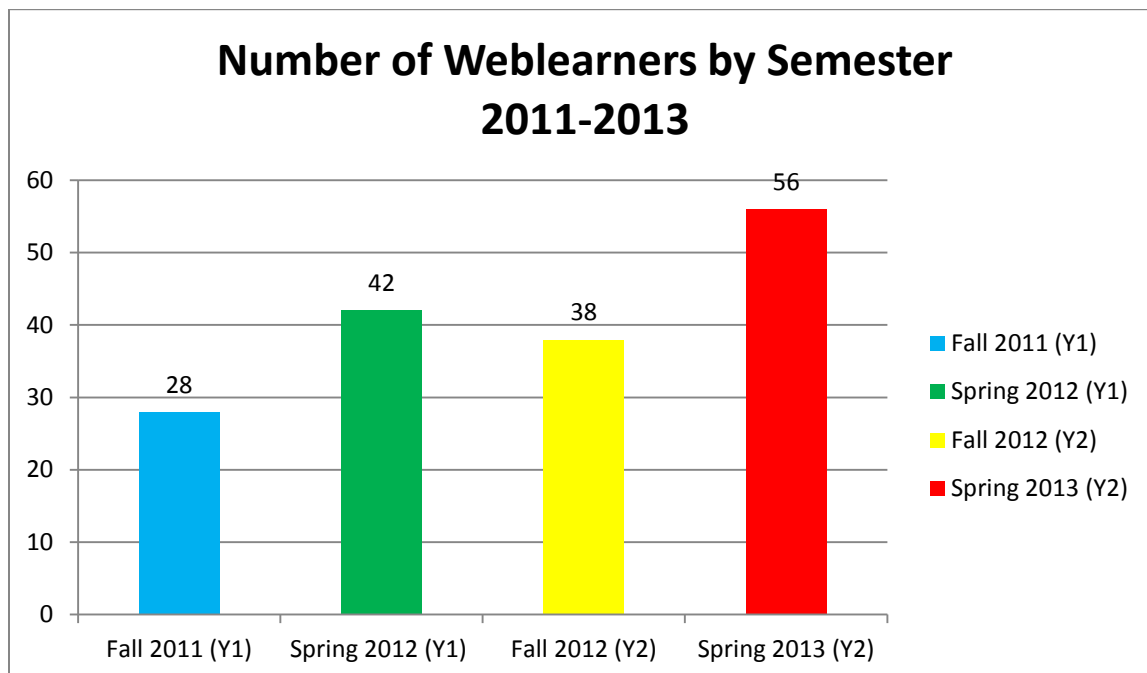


# March 2013 Distance Learning Newsletter

## Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice



**PROGRAM UPDATE:** The online program continues to grow, we will have at least two more graduates in Spring, so the interest is clearly there! Now we need more breath (aka resources)! ☺ Thank you all who responded to my inquiries on online teaching. I am currently working on a report that highlights the program's progress over the past two years and that will justify additional requests for support.



Again, gentle reminders about QM deadlines to all faculty who committed to develop an online course at the beginning of this academic year. October 4<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for Spring 2014!!

<http://www.kennesaw.edu/dlc/1coursesubmission.html>

Also, please consider making use of more interactive technologies in your online courses to increase instructor presence. This may include voice-over syllabus (use Panopto, Voicethread, or other technology of your choice to have your students hear you going over the syllabus); using the audio feature in D2L to provide feed-back on discussion boards (can save you some time); video messages, instructions, updates, encouragements, reminders or even small lectures – all in video form. Allowing students the chance to see you can make a big difference in online teaching. If you do not have a Panopto account you can contact the ITS service to request one. Then you will be able to log in here: <http://coursecapture.kennesaw.edu>

If you need help using Panopto, I can provide it - or you can go straight to the pros (Tammy Powel - she would be happy to help you).

Also, consider making a “faculty introductory video” with the Office of Distance Learning to upload on your course home page. This video could help you increase “instructor presence” in your class and avoid the “Ghost Town” syndrome that sometimes web-learners can experience when they access online home course pages that are too dry or text-based.

#### **D2L AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY UPDATES:**

There will be some improvements in D2L at end of March and at end of July. Service will not be affected. In January 2014, we will get the new version of D2L, which is 10.2. It will be a very small step up in terms of work compared to what the move from GVV entailed. There will be more D2L training in September for 10.2.

SoftChalk Cloud will be available via ITS for ALL faculty at KSU – by April or May. Respondus Lockdown Browser and VoiceThread will be available by April. Faculty interested in VoiceThread can access documentation at <http://www.kennesaw.edu/elearning>. This is also a great link for various D2L tutorials if you are still experimenting with the system’s more sophisticated features.

#### **MOOC**

Your online coordinator is currently participating in a course designed by the CHSS DLO to highlight best practices in online teaching. Participants log in weekly to discuss topics related to online pedagogy and to engage in various activities. Online coordinators are responsible for delivering one module in this course. I will be talking about the experience of having the first online major in the college at the end of April. Please let me know if you would like Tammy Powell to add you to the course.

## **POLICY FROM ACADEMIC AFFAIRS REGARDING CHANGES IN COURSE MODALITY**

Per DLO, faculty must make sure to respect the course delivery methods they signed up for. While it is fine to put up something online for a day if we are away at a conference or other event, no faculty member under contract at KSU has the option of changing the modality of a course (face to face to online, online to face to face, face to face to hybrid) after the course has started. Not for any reason. This policy comes from Academic Affairs, not the DLC.