

Ed. S Program Meeting
December 5, 2012
Electronic Meeting via Email

1. LiveText entries are part of every course that we teach, and each of those entries is part of a student's portfolio. Therefore, those entries must be submitted as part of the portfolio. It is NOT OKAY for a student to just submit the document instead of making the document part of the portfolio, hiding other pages, and then submitting the portfolio to you. When a student does submit only the document, you must return the assignment to that student, assign whatever penalty you assign, and not accept the assignment until it is submitted correctly. Some people subtract a point or points from the grade, some tell the student what the grade WILL be if submitted correctly, and give a 0 until it is correctly done, some return the submission and apply persuasion and coercion, etc. Use what works for you. You might also reserve a part of the grade for an assignment that has to be submitted in Livetext for successful completion of the LiveText process. If the semester ends without success, the student would receive a 0 for that assignment or part of the assignment. There is no choice about this item. If students have issues and you can't help them, they can contact the LiveText folks. The instructions provided for you to place in your syllabus are really good. Perhaps we need to have a separate file in Student Resources for LiveText instructions, so that document would be in an easy access place as well as in the syllabus.

2. We all know that some changes to syllabi will have to be in place for Summer 2013, so we will be working on those items during Spring semester. However, the biggest change for all of us will be the new platform for delivery of our online courses, GoView. I trust that all of you have been to training sessions or have carefully worked through the tutorials. I have attended three sessions and learned a lot, but I also know that I will stumble as I begin to make changes in our courses.

We all probably need to leave ourselves more time than in the past to check our courses and be sure that everything is as it should be for the beginning of the semester and beyond. We will still be using the same faculty members as last semester to be the lead instructors on courses. The lead faculty member will make the changes and then that course will be copied into the remaining ones. Times and dates have migrated in a funny way in some cases, so be watchful for those items.

3. I know all of you have heard of the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) that some universities are offering. The main providers are Coursera (out of Stanford) and Udacity (other major universities). One of the features of these courses is a place within the course where students can ask questions of other students and get a thread going on it. It is not a place for the instructor to monitor or to step in. If there are questions for the instructor, they are sent in other ways. It is reported that students are very helpful to each other, and that course developers can also see what issues are common for many students and move to improve those areas of the courses.

I have had such a place in my Discussions just for students (I have told them that I do not check it or answer questions there - that's their spot), but I have not really pushed/publicized/reminded about it. I am thinking that such a "place" might exist within each of our courses - - a sort of peer tutoring spot. Such a place might be more helpful in some courses than in others (I am thinking that 8020 is a course where specific statistics questions could be asked and answered by students), but there is probably some need in all courses for students to ask questions of other students. If we do such a thing, it should probably look the same in each course so that students in our program become accustomed to accessing it.

I am getting some help in looking at such a course piece that could be dropped into all of our courses, and will get back to you on the idea. Let me know if you have thoughts on it.