

# More Than Copy & Paste

## Online Teaching and Pedagogic Practice

Tylir J. McKenzie  
Doctoral Candidate - GWSS

# My goals

To explain my interest in the topic

To discuss some differences between F2F  
and Online teaching

To provide an example from my own  
teaching experience

# (Me)search

Research = (me)search; it's personal

Related to my dissertation project

Most important: How can I become a better teacher, particularly online

# My background

Online Student  Online Instructor

3+ years experience teaching online at all different levels of higher education in WA state

Taught a variety of courses online

# How Did I Learn to Teach F2F

- TA/RA conference
- Watching others
- Mentorship from other TAs/faculty
- Programs like Center for Teaching and Learning

# How Did I Learn to Teach Online

# A need for sharing

Without training or mentorship, finding what works online is predominately through trial and terror – I mean error! and error, and error.....

Sharing practices can keep us out of the flames

# Teaching Online

- NOT copy and paste from brick & mortar
- Instead, online instructors must:
  - Frequently adapt teaching style
  - Find new ways to measure student success
  - Thereby, measuring their own success

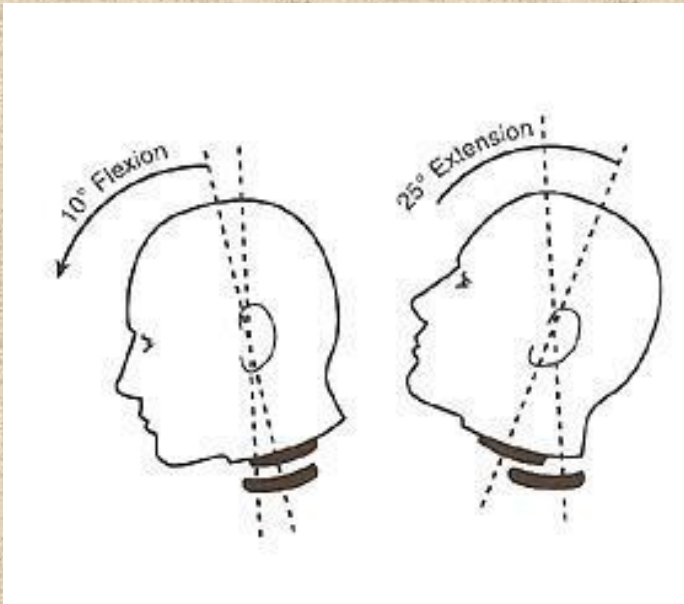


# The How-2

1. How do I know if my students are understanding and synthesizing the course content?
2. How do I know if I am an effective online teacher?

# In-Class

## Head nod



Blank Stare

# In-Class

Tilted head of confusion



Lost Cause

# But online...

There are no visual signifiers

No face(s) to read

No body language to indicate interest or engagement

# Instead

Students “engage” in the class through asynchronous DBs, written assignments, quizzes and tests.

We “read” only their words

# So what do I do?

Students are required to do two assignments in every course I teach

A PRE-course reflection AND  
A POST-course reflection

# The Pre-Course Reflection

What do you know about x topic?

What do you hope to learn in this class?

What is the reason you took this class?

# The Post-Course Reflection

Students must return to their pre-course reflection and...

Demonstrate synthesis of material through talking about where they started and where they are now

And what they took away from the course



# The Post-Course Reflection

Students must return to their pre-course reflection and...

Demonstrate synthesis of material through discussing where they started out and where they finished

And what they took away from the course

# Why this works

Gives students a chance to evaluate themselves

Gives me the chance to see if they understood the materials

Gives MUCH better course feedback than ANY “official” eval I have ever done

# The Take-Away

Teaching online requires adaptation

Measuring success online can be challenging but there are ways to do so

Sharing experience with other online instructors creates a learning community

# Time's Up!

- **About you:**
  - **Name: Tylir J McKenzie**
  - **Department: GWSS**
  - **Contact Information: tylirm@uw.edu**
  - **Twitter/URL: @iamtywithani**
  - **Quick bio: 5<sup>th</sup> year PhD student in GWSS whose dissertation research focuses on the need for learning communities for online instructors**

