

Onward Computing

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E-Learning: Click, Immerse, Learn



Ever wonder if online education was for you? Time constraints in the real world hamper many adults, restricting their educational opportunities as they fulfill their support role in the family. E-Learning has come a long way since the 1990's, when connection speed and security were serious questions marks while just checking your e-mail! Today, E-Learning provides a mode of education comparable to any traditional classroom environment: podcasts, video lectures, threaded forums, and 24-7 support are just some of the features in today's E-classroom. Someone may ask, "Is the education the same?," and the answer is yes! A recent study by Nick Zacaris showed that online learning groups did not score any significantly higher or

lower than students in the traditional classroom model.¹ Most large, small, private, and public universities now offer E-Learning classes for both undergraduate and graduate studies. If fully immersing yourself online is a problem, there are even hybrid classes available that bring out the best of both worlds; getting your feet wet may make you a convert to purely online education classes. Fully accredited, fully immersive, fully qualified educators are waiting for you to join the rEvolution in education. To learn more, please go to:

www.usaonline.southalabama.edu



Youtube...A Classroom?



Go to Youtube and watch a cute dog do something cute. Watch a cute cat do something cute. Watch a teacher

perform a lecture? More and more online classrooms have turned to Youtube as a source to upload and view lecture series, usually an adjunct to other modes of learning. Taking in the visual and audio

aesthetic component of learning, these lectures are usually overviews of the topic to be learned. View a Youtube classroom session here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBfs7xuLRh0

In This Onward Issue:

- **E-Learning & You**
- **Youtube in the Classroom**
- **Learning Corner: Behaviorism**
- **Storyboarding**
- **Making the Transition: E-Learning**

¹. Zacharis, Nick. (2010) The Impact of Learning Styles of Student Achievement in a Web-Based Versus an Equivalent Face-To-Face Course. *College Student Journal*. 44, 3. p 591-597.

Learning Corner:

Behaviorism

Behaviorism can be simply defined as learning through interactions with the environment. Going deeper, behaviorism suggests learning develops through either operant or classical conditioning. Classical conditioning can be thought of as stimulus-response learning, while operant conditioning can be considered learning through rewards and punishments. Although a clumsily brief definition is given, instrumental research still occurs on this very topic! Although the oldest of the learning theories, behaviorism ideas and concepts have transferred to other avenues of industrial genre, such as video games development. Next time you play Pac-Man, consider the consequences and rewards of moving toward those ghosts!

A Historical Perspective:

Storyboarding: Buy In!

One of the oldest tricks for categorization is to use storyboarding. By definition, storyboarding is using visual sequencing to play-out a list of events. First used by Walt-Disney in the 1930's, storyboarding has made its way out of the film industry and into the realm of instructional design and development. Storyboarding is a popular technique for instructional designers to utilize while developing web content for online learning. It is often used to display, describe, or audibly characterize the interfaces from page to page in the web browser. This methodology has been utilized as a lead in for client buy-in leverage. A general inference can be made from the client's perspective using a storyboard as to what the finished model will truly display. Benefits to storyboarding are obvious, such as allowing changes before production all while maintaining client satisfaction. Storyboarding, a necessary step: buy in!

Making the transition:

E-Learning



Getting started with online classes can seem overwhelming at first, so we thought that this laundry list of must haves will save you the headache of those dreaded 9pm Wal-Mart runs!

- Computer
- Printer with plenty of ink and paper
- High quality internet access
- Pens and highlighters
- Microsoft Suite (preferable)
- A quiet place!
- Microphone
- Patience!!!