



Idaho State University

GREAT IDEAS IN TEACHING

MINI CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY

ISU College of Education, ISU Center for Learning and Instructional Excellence,
and the ISU Graduate School

Building Rapport in Asynchronous Online Courses – Messages and Media

Xiaomeng (Mona) Xu
Professor, Department of Psychology
College of Arts and Letters

Asynchronous online courses can offer a lot of benefits for students, including accessibility and flexibility. They can also be more challenging than synchronous online courses and in-person courses in terms of building rapport with students and within the class, as regular interactions may not be a notable and expected feature. In this presentation, I will share my experiences over the past few years of teaching two asynchronous online courses (PSYC 3341 Social Psychology and PSYC 2205 Human Sexuality) and trying to get to know students and build rapport within these courses. The strategies I will talk about include an introduction discussion forum, regular weekly messaging through announcements, individualized check-in emails a few weeks into each course, and extra credit media (e.g., memes, songs, videos) assignments. I will discuss how I've implemented these strategies, how my practices have changed over time, and the feedback I've received from students. Overall, these components have been well received and I believe successful in helping to build rapport, increasing student engagement, and adding fun into the courses and grading process. After sharing my experiences, there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion, and if there is time, we can try an example of an extra credit assignment focusing on teaching-related memes.