

'burg Blogs »

Developing American National Government as an online course

Posted [July 3, 2012](#) at 8:26 am by [Dr. Judithanne Scourfield-McLauchlan](#)



Developing my online course with Karla, the Instructional Designer extraordinaire

While teaching American Government this summer, I simultaneously was developing it as an online course for the Fall 2012 semester (and beyond).

The truth is, I have resisted online teaching. I enjoy the interaction with my students in the classroom. I incorporate civic engagement opportunities and experiential learning opportunities

in every course that I teach. I have worried about how to maintain this high level of engagement in an online course.

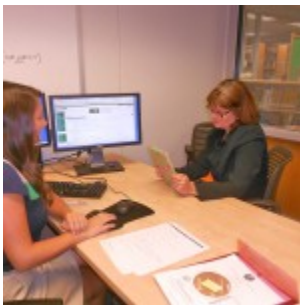
However, the university put forward resources to help faculty to design high quality online courses, and in August 2011 I applied for a distance learning course development grant.

In April 2012 I participated in a four-part course organized by the instructional design department at Poynter Library.

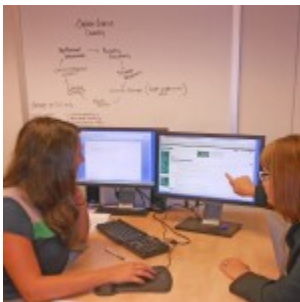
I am working with wonderful staff who are going to make sure that my online course is as engaging and rewarding as the courses that I teach face-to-face.

Read an article I drafted — “Learning Citizenship by Doing: Evaluating the Effects of a Required Political Campaign Internship in American Government” — about the impact of the campaign internship in my previous face-to-face American Government courses.

Now I will be studying civic engagement in the online classroom...



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Developing the online course



Getting ready to teach online

About the blogger



Dr. Scourfield McLauchlan is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, where she teaches courses in American Government and Public Law. Her latest book, *Congressional Participation as Amicus Curiae before the U.S. Supreme Court*, explores how Members of Congress attempt to influence Supreme Court decision-making in specific cases. In addition to her scholarly activities, Professor McLauchlan has extensive experience in American government and politics. McLauchlan worked at the US Supreme Court, the US Senate Judiciary Committee, the US Department of Justice, and the White House. A veteran of several presidential campaigns, she has managed statewide operations across the US, from Portland, Maine to Portland, Oregon. During the 2010-11 academic year Dr. McLauchlan was a Fulbright Scholar in Moldova.