Ultimate Access and Flexibility with HyFlex Courses

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ALLEGANY COLLEGE of MARYLAND

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Warm-up

- What do you know about flexible course offerings?

- What do you want to know?

Learning Outcomes

- Define HyFlex Courses
- Identify the benefits of HyFlex courses for students
- Compare approaches/technology tools to consider with HyFlex courses
- Review process of developing HyFlex courses
- Discuss tips and strategies to design and teach HyFlex courses
  - Logistics
  - Pedagogy
- Identify next steps to creating your own HyFlex course

What is HyFlex?

- Definition - Online content supported with face-to-face instruction. Attendance may be in the face-to-face classroom, online synchronously (live time), online asynchronously (not live time), or a combination of these options.
  - Different Names- Flex, HyFlex, etc.
  - Three models of delivery (face-to-face, synchronous, asynchronous)
  - Option for students to choose and change throughout the semester
- Video from Allegany:
- What it is not

Background
Allegany College of Maryland

- Learner-Centered
- Aging Distance Learning system
- Innovative Instructional Modalities
  - Beneficial to students with varied backgrounds
  - Universal Design
- Trying new things to boost enrollment
- Shared at Maryland DLA and League of Innovation in spring 2018

Allegany College
Pre-Planning

- Idea was brought to Administration and assigned to Ed Tech
- Support for development of course
- Interested faculty volunteered to pilot
- Technology requirements
  - Faculty, Student, Institution
- Training
- Support
- Legality of recording – Maryland

Allegany College
Pre-Planning

- Computer Literacy section redesigned
  - Designed as 100% online
- In-House review, similar to Quality Matters
- Updates
- Ready for delivery

Montgomery College
Pre-Planning

- The HyFlex concept at Allegany College was adopted, adapted and then implemented at Montgomery College, funded by a grant;

- Financial resources provided by Grants dept. were less than asked for but in the end were enough to execute the plan;

- The Office of Information Technology provided considerable consultation, hardware, and software.

Process/Technology Comparisons

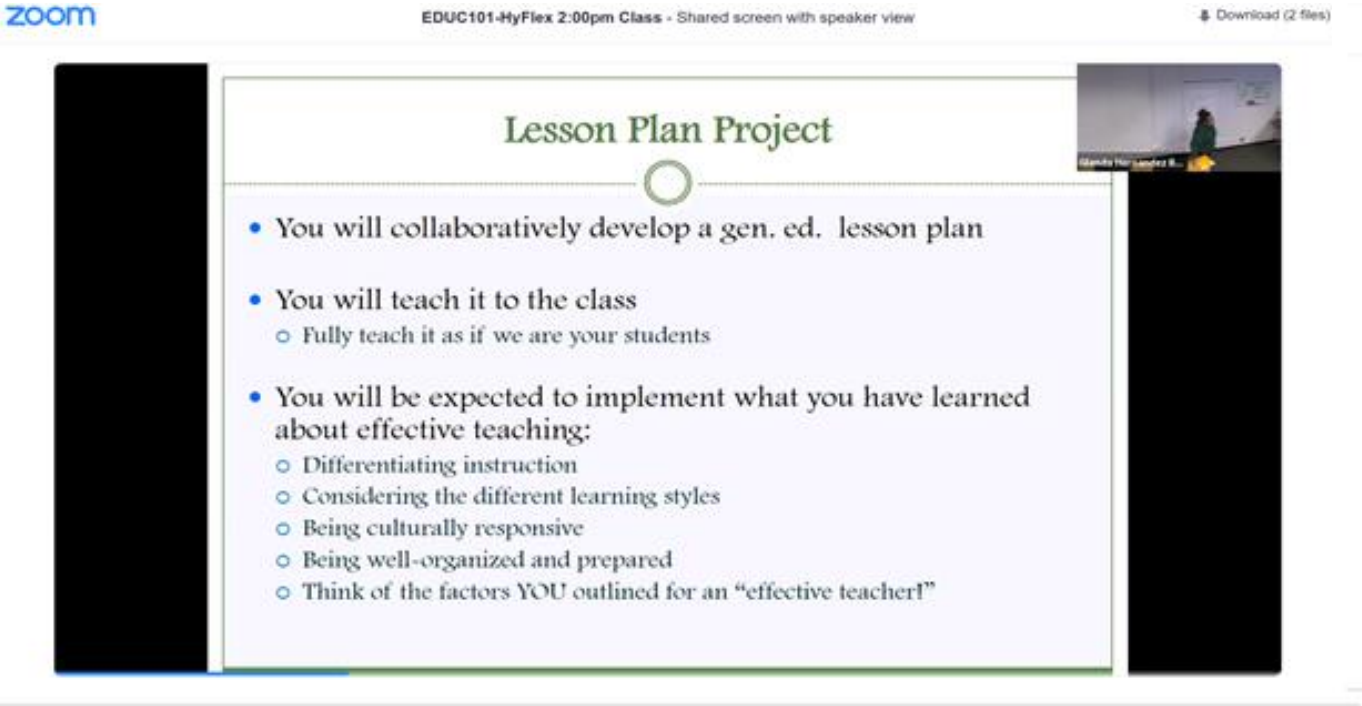
Allegany Community College	Montgomery College
Webcam	Webcam
Microphones – Lavalier and Ceiling	Microphones – Lavalier and Ceiling
Speakers	Speakers
Streaming and Recording of classes - GoToMeeting	Streaming and Recording of classes – ZOOM (GotoMeeting and Echo 360 were used at first)
Archiving classes, GTM and YouTube	Smart Instructor Workstation [shown later]
Instructor Workstation	Presentation System – Brightlink (front screen and projector on ceiling) [shown later in presentation]
	Large monitor on side of classroom [shown later]
Blackboard	Blackboard

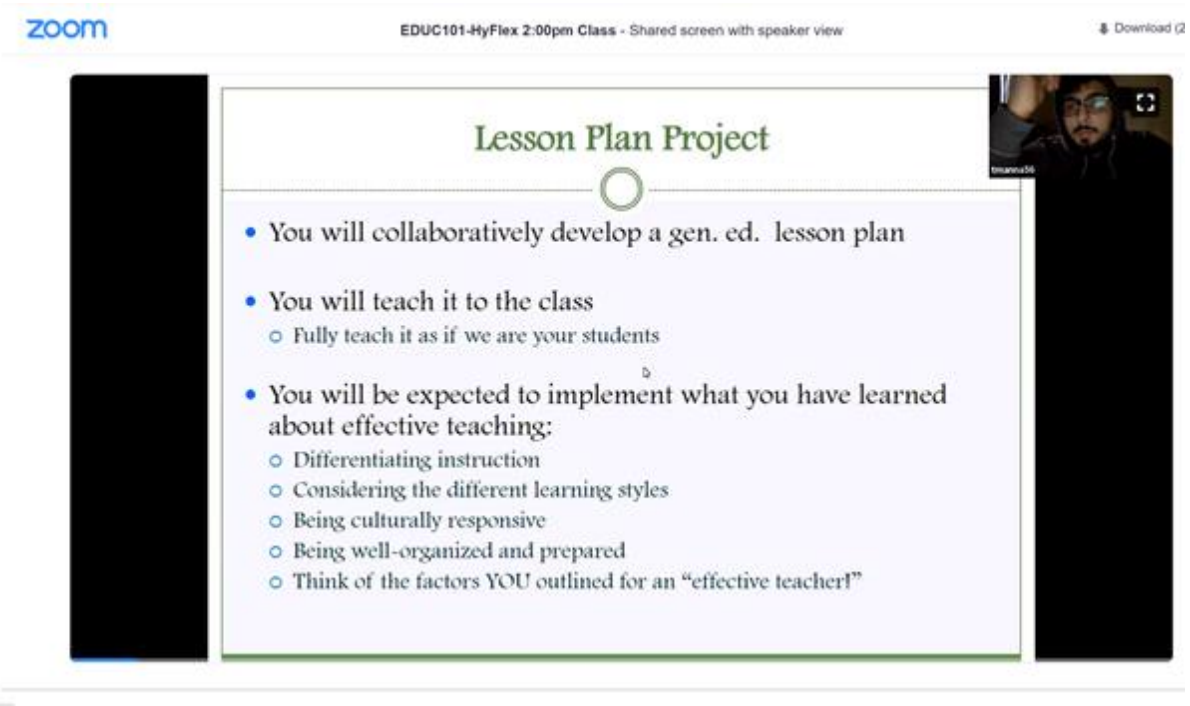
Curriculum

- Computer Concept Chapters
  - Instructor Designed Activities
  - SAM (Student Assessment Management – Cengage Online Learning Tool) Exam
- Applications (Microsoft Office)
  - SAM – Trainings
  - SAM – Projects
  - SAM – Exams

Content/Class Considerations

- MC – Teacher Education/other more interactive courses
  - Need to consider movement and proximity needs give clear instructions with expectations- in syllabus, visuals, Blackboard, etc.





HyFlex Classroom – Montgomery College

Why HyFlex?

- Allows for more flexibility and accessibility
- More student choice
  - Students can change how they attend classes at any point in the semester
- Ensures students can access the material
  - Attendance
- Addresses equity

Student Outcomes and Voices

- **ACM**
  - First & Second Semester
    - There is a correlation between face-to-face attendance and final grade
  - Third Semester
    - There is NO correlation between face-to-face attendance and final grade
- **MC**
  - There was a correlation between those who accessed content through HyFlex options, and went beyond face-to-face, with grades.

Student Outcomes and Voices

- “I didn't have to stress if I missed a class. If I forget what we did in class, I can just go back and watch the class over.”
- “The only suggestion I have is to make more classes available as flex courses!”
- “It made the class much more convenient.”
- "The fact that it gave students the chance to participate and attend class without actually being in class."
- "I am a stay-at-home mom who also works part time. This format gives me the freedom to participate in the class and complete assignments at my convenience."

Student Outcomes and Voices .. Cont' Montgomery College

- “I believe HyFlex is very convenient. I commute VIA [*sic*]public transportation and it takes about an hour and a half and sometimes I go to MC only for one class. It is very beneficial because it saves a lot of time and it allows the students to stay connected even though they are not physically there. "

- "I liked that I was able to attend class even when I wasn’t able to be physically there. It helped me stay on track with me [*sic*] class even when I didn’t have a ride to class."

- "I liked the fact that it created an option for people who couldn't physically be at school, to be in class and still receive instruction as if they were there."

- "The fact that it gave students the chance to participate and attend class without actually being in class."

Tips and Strategies to Consider Allegany College of Maryland

- Logistics
  - ALWAYS have a backup plan
  - Let students know up front there will be challenges and be flexible
  - It is not easy; however, it IS innovative and meeting students where they need to be

- Pedagogy:
  - Clarity in instructions, choices and expectations

Tips and Strategies to Consider Montgomery College

- Logistics -
  - Technology
    - Support
      - Purchasing, installation, consulting, fixes – **this is a MUST HAVE component**
        - Planning and real-time classroom support
  - Collaboration
    - Try getting a room dedicated to this modality

How can YOU HyFlex?

- Start small
- Content considerations
- Expect to have lessons learned
- Technology constantly changing
- Have backup plans when technology fails
- Flexible budgets

What's Your Plan
Turn and Talk (2-3 mins.)

- What steps can you take to start your journey in developing your own HyFlex courses?

Questions?

Can we answer any questions you may have?

Thank you for your time!

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