

*Distance and online educators need now, more than ever, **not** to be defensive...*

(Frits Pannekoek, President, Athabasca University, 2009)

Translation: (without solid pedagogical reason) there is **no reason not to attempt online** everything we would do in a traditional face to face learning environment

IHMN 330 [International Hotel Management], created in 2006, is a **blended online face to face class** founded on the aforementioned premise

Factors in course design and process:

(IHMN 330) Hotel Management learners have

- team process experience from Res on (Susan Thackeray – Lane Sherman)
- two terms of team learning prior to IHMN 330
- blended learning experience starting in term one (with IHMN 310)
- experience of Problem Based Learning (Field School); also from IHMN 310

(IHMN 330) Hotel Management learners have considerable sophistication in blended format, PBL and especially teams

The course can emphasize process (pedagogy) in core design

Making use of the discussion forums and conversational elements of the course for 'new'...

Expectations (McHattie, 2012) for consistent learning

Strategies not styles

Develop high learner expectations

Develop assessment capable learners

In (IHMN 330) International Hotel Management, this results in

- a series of team assignments-presentations
- each team 'operating' as Corporate level officers
- reporting to the CEO of a fictional global corporation
- team presentations due every class, including one online class

Results:

- 'Living' Problem Function
(Not a 'sim' where variables can be mastered to 'beat the game')
- Each team creates their own version of the corporation
(especially as assignments are released one at a time, with intent to built upon previous work from each team)

Role of the 'CEO'- Instructor:

- Keep the scenarios 'real' and 'focused'
- Feedback effectively
- Hold 'feet to the fire' re expectations

It is vital, absolutely, that individual learners be re-assured

In this instance that the major assignment is their Individual 'reflective' piece, worth more 'marks' than the cumulative total for the team presentations

This maintains the integrity of the “I”, the individual, in both the team process and course-assessment process

Resulting in the security and confidence needed

Very high quality of production

References:

McHattie, J (2012). *The Mindset that makes a Difference in Education* [powerpoint slides]. Visible Learning, Tomorrow's School. Retrieved October 6, 2013 from <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/media-speeches/guestlectures/pdfs/tgls-hattie.pdf>

Pannekeok, F (2009, November). *The future of Distance Education*. Speech [online] presented to EDDE 801.