Myths and Magic Moments for Online Learning

Curt Bonk, Professor, Indiana University
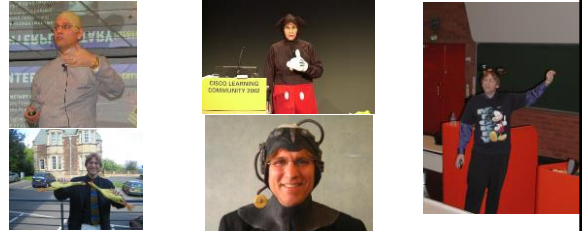cjbonk@indiana.edu
http://curtbonk.com/

Not a Myth:
I used to be fun...now I am serious

Myth #1: Learning Online is too new!
How PLATO changed the World...in 1960
Cait Etherington, ElearningInside News
https://news.elearninginside.com/how-plato-changed-the-world-in-1960/

Myth #2: You can't earn a degree online

Myth #3: You have to be a tech whiz to complete online courses

Myth #4. You will get behind

Myth #5. Everyone tends to procrastinate online

Myth #6: Open textbooks cannot be trusted
OER Adoptions on the Rise
Lindsay McKenzie, Inside Higher Ed
https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/12/19/more-faculty-members-are-using-oer-survey-finds

Myth #7: You can't have a personal life.
Focused Ga. Mom Completes College Exam While in Labor, Fox 5, Atlanta
http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/50990044-story

Myth #8: Online learning is too time-consuming
250 MOOCs and Counting: One Man's Educational Journey, Chronicle of Higher Education
If the MOOC movement has faded, nobody told Jima Ngei. Mr. Ngei, who lives in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, has completed and passed 250.
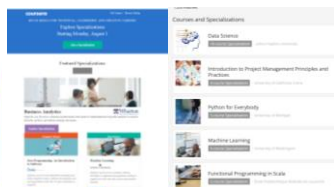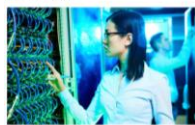

Jima Ngei: "I had this unrelenting fear that this miracle of free access might evaporate soon."

Myths #9: Credentials take too long
Microcredentials and Nanodegrees
edX Expands MicroMasters Programs With Data Science ("nanodegrees")

Myth #10: I'm too young to learn online
From MOOC to bootcamp to MIT
MIT News, Office of Digital Learning
(Jin Wu—from MITx to MIT Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamp to master's student)
http://news.mit.edu/2016/mooc-bootcamp-mit-0519

Myth #11: I'm too old to learn online
An 80-Year-Old Graduate With an Online Marketing Degree Kept His Promise, The Texas Tribune
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/30/us/80-year-old-graduate-of-wgu-team-kept-his-promise.html?ref=education&_r=0

THE TEXAS TRIBUNE
An 80-Year-Old Graduate With an Online Marketing Degree Kept His Promise

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Interaction

Although you are not in a classroom physically, it doesn't mean you can't interact with fellow students and instructors: Phone, messengers, video chats, emails – they all make eLearning interactive. Some educators have online office hours and others have synchronous chats with experts.

- **Synchronous communication technologies**
  - Google Hangouts   YouTube Live

- **Asynchronous communication technologies**
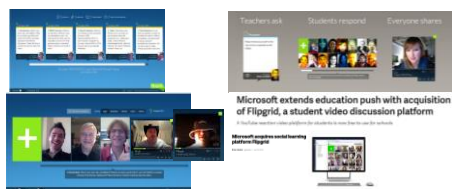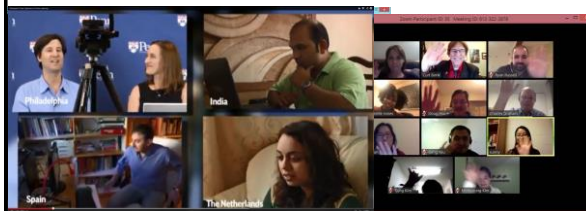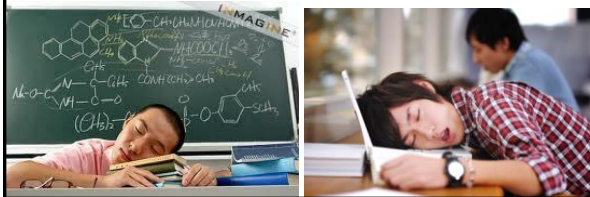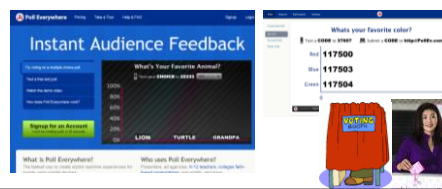 - Discussion forum   Blog   Slackbot   Flickr

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Myth #12. Online learning is lonely and not interactive
(e.g., Flipgrid)
https://techcrunch.com/2018/06/18/microsoft-acquires-social-learning-platform-flipgrid/

Teachers ask   Students respond   Everyone shares

Microsoft extends education push with acquisition of Flipgrid, a student video discussion platform

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Myth #13: Online courses do not provide for social presence and caring

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Myth #14: Students will be bored and sleepy online

Myth #15. Online learning is lonely
(e.g., Poll Everywhere, BlogPolls, BlogPoll, MicroPoll)

Instant Audience Feedback

What's Your Favorite Animal?

What's your favorite color?

Red	117500
Blue	117503
Green	117504

May 2, 2019
Myth #16: The content is not interactive
What was Leonardo da Vinci doing at your age?, CNN
https://www.cnn.com/interactive/style/leonardo500/

Myth #17: Online learning is too complicated
Interpreting Interactive Graphs and Infographics
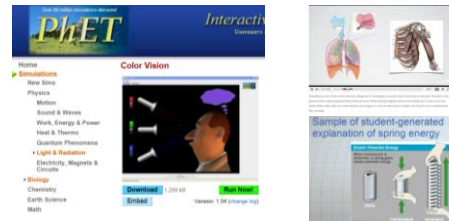**How much rainforest in that chocolate bar?**

Myth #18: Online learning is too passive
(Student created documentaries, videos, projects, designs, podcast shows, books, mobile apps, etc.)

Myth #19. Online courses will not be as rigorous as on campus courses
Interactive Labs and Simulations
http://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/energy-skate-park

Myth #20: You will never meet your peers
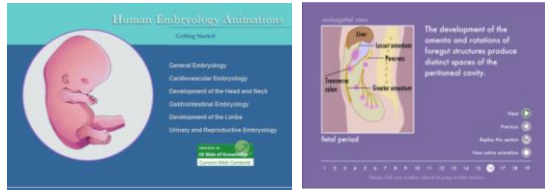**(Well…there can be meetups!)**

Quality

Educational institutions are strict and serious when it comes to online courses, and they run all courses through a rigorous certification process. Plus, online courses might be even better than traditional ones: They make teachers communicate differently, thinking about engagement and effectiveness of their work.
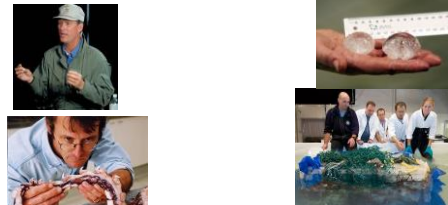

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Myth #21: The quality of education is not good enough
Human Embryology Animations
(Valerie O'Loughlin, Indiana University)

Myth #22: If it is not in a textbook, it cannot be high quality
(Nautilus Live allows people to watch expeditions live & listen to scientists in control rooms a discoveries made)

Myth #24: The instructor is in a cramped and small little office
Penguin Science (Penguin Cam), Jean Pennycook
http://www.penguinscience.com/

Personalization

Since interactions are not face-to-face in eLearning, they are planned in ways to engage learners in a dialogue. It's impossible to remain anonymous and "quiet" if you want to succeed and make the most out of your online course.
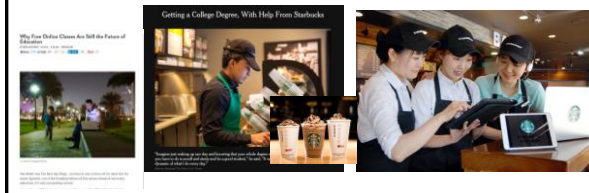

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Myth #25: Online courses are impersonal

Myth #26: Online Learning is Not Authentic Enough
Modern medicine breathes new life into virtual training
2:34 (entire video): http://curtbonk.com/vr-medicine4b.html

Myth #27: Employers will not take online degrees seriously

Myth #28: Creating effective online learning environments is too hard!
Paul Kim, Stanford University
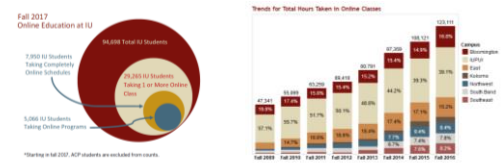

Myth #29: Online learners do not collaborate
(e.g., PiratePad: http://meetingwords.com/)
MeetingWords, Google Docs, NowComment, MixedInk

Myth #30: Highly ranked universities do not believe in online learning
Learning is More Online (Access)
Indiana University, Office of Online Education

Myth #31. Online learning limits creativity

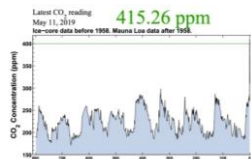**Myth #32: Online learning contents are old**
November 28, 2018
'Siberian unicorn' once walked among early humans
Tara John, CNN
https://edition.cnn.com/2018/11/27/europe/siberian-unicorn-humans-sci-intl/index.html

May 13, 2019
Carbon Dioxide Levels In The Atmosphere Hit
Highest Mark In Human History
Nina Golkowski, The Huffington Post
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/co2-levels-hit-new-high_n_5cd9882ae4b0c388e584eb09

Myth #33. Resources are much better on campus than online
Online Referenceware: The Magical Power of Dictionaries
https://www.chronicle.com/article/The-Magical-Power-of/242513

Myth #34. I am in this alone.
E-Mentors, Peers, Tutors, Authors, social media, online support groups, and AI Coaches

Myth #35. eLearning makes it easier to cheat.

Myth #36: Feedback is hard to get online
Peer, self, expert, instructor, and system feedback all possible!

Myth #37: Online Learning is mainly Text Based
Interactive Maps, Timelines, Concept Maps, and other visuals

Myth #38: Online learning scratches the surface without depth
Big Questions Online (BQO)
(e.g., Can a Living Creature Be as Big as a Galaxy?)
https://www.bigquestionsonline.com/

Myth #39: I will have difficulty reaching my goals
Goal Setting Tools
(e.g., I Done This, Milestone Planner, and 43 Things)

Myth #40: In online learning, you cannot show your learning
Mindmap Recaps of Online Discussions

Myth #41: You need broadband access.
MOOCs for Human Development? A Case Study
(agMOOCs in India)
Balaji Venkataraman and Asha Kanwar (COL)
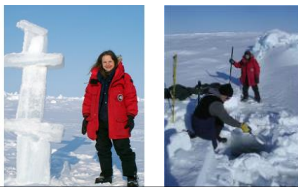http://www.agmoocs.in/

Myth #42: Online learning requires an internet connection
iPod Learning from the Ice using MIT OCW
(e.g., Wendy Ermold, University of Washington)

Myth #43: I cannot afford online learning
Open Education's Wide World of Possibilities
https://chronicle.com/article/Open-Educations-Wide-World-of/131672/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

Online Learning Myths all done!

Are you happy?
My minions are happy!

We are entering a jumping off point…
(South University of Science and Technology of China, Wednesday June 10, 2015)

Introducing the free "TEC-VARIETY" Framework…
http://tec-variety.com/
http://tec-variety.com/TEC-VARIETY-Chinese.pdf

Any Questions or Comments?

Slides at: TrainingShare.com
Papers: PublicationShare.com
Free book: http://tec-variety.com/
Email: cjbonk@indiana.edu