

**It’s Alive!!!**

The world is changing at a very fast pace these days. A few short months ago we were all in our classrooms working away and providing the best education we knew possible. Who knew that there was so much more to learn. Especially when the classroom was taken away from us.

I have noticed since I began teaching on-line that the students are very nervous of the change. Their familiarity has been taken away from them on top of all of the regular struggles of their education. Also, our College has a high percentage of international students. Can you imagine leaving your own country, all on your own, moving to a new City, new School, new surroundings and then have to navigate yourself through the material.

Georgian College has a great tool in Blackboard. It is easy to navigate once you are familiar with it but until you are, it can be quite daunting. There are three forms of technology that I have discussed throughout the course. Screencasting, Webex and Kahoot.

Screencasting will be used as the virtual teacher at the front of the class on day one. It will instruct the students how to navigate through the Blackboard website and give them all the course information. Hopefully this will put them at ease and give them the confidence they need to be successful

Second I will be using Webex. Each week, we will meet in our virtual classroom and I can go through the weeks material, answer questions and remind them of their upcoming test/assignments etc. I think it is important to meet with the students virtually so they can develop some familiarity and build a student/teacher relationship. Having used Webex before in my last Summer Semester, one of the issues I noticed is that the students would attend but they would not turn their cameras on and it was difficult to get participation or feedback from the students. This is where the Kahoot app will come in. Each week I plan to have a small review of the previous week or as an introduction to new material. This will allow the students to not only learn the material but to feel comfortable under a user name to play anonymously.

I truly look forward to improving my courses and the student experiences with this new technology applied to my course material.

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