Hybrid or Blended Learning is . . . a combination of face-to-face and computer-mediated instruction (Graham, 2005).

The Hybrid Class Format is . . .

✓ used in both corporate and academic circles;
✓ one of the top ten trends to emerge in the knowledge delivery industry (Rooney, 2003);
✓ “the single-greatest unrecognized trend in higher education today” (Young, 2002).
Why Hybrid Learning?

- Social interaction in class and online
- Cost-Effectiveness
- Ease of Revision
- Combination of Classroom and Computer-Mediated Instruction (Osguthorpe & Graham, 2003).
- Access to Knowledge Increased
- Flexibility for Students (Bonk P& Graham, 2005).

Goal of Hybrid Learning:
Combine the best features of classroom teaching with the best features of online learning to promote active, independent learning and reduce class seat time.
(Young, 2002)

Hybrid courses have an advantage over other courses. . .
- Professors and students meet and interact with each other in person and online;
- Students get to know each other;
- Community building develops naturally.
What Does the Research Say?

Online instruction and hybrid courses that involve face-to-face instruction can be as effective as traditional face-to-face courses in providing high-quality learning experiences (U.S. Department of Education, 2009).

What Do UCCS Students Say?

• "Personally, I think this class was my favorite course this term because of the hybrid nature of it."

• "I really liked the hybrid online and face to face class. I wish all classes were like this! The weekly due dates and assignments were easy to follow and keep up with. I appreciated the face to face classes that we did have where we were able to interact with other teachers. The only thing I would change would be to present the projects in person. I feel they are much easier to present and explain as well as to follow and observe. Otherwise, a great class!"

• "Thanks for introducing me to the hybrid style course."

Helpful Hints In Developing a Hybrid Course

#1 Allow Time to Plan

✓ Start early and build one step at a time.
✓ What course objectives and activities are the best match for face to face (F2F) learning? What are best suited for online learning?
✓ Include components that are easy to manage and grade
✓ Keep the technology simple in the beginning.
Helpful Hints... #2 Consider What Course Design Is Best

- The number of F2F and online sessions depends on the course content.
- Develop learning activities that capitalize on strengths of the online and F2F environments.
- Decide how to integrate F2F and Online Sessions
- After you've taught the course, get feedback from students and reflect on how to make it even better next time.
- Include multi-media learning activities when appropriate.

More Teaching Hints... #3 Seek Out Available Resources

- Connect with UCCS TLC, Kraemer Family Library and Department Resources.
- Find exemplary hybrid courses for ideas.
- Explore free online resources, e.g., MERLOT.
- Check for resources that accompany course texts.

More Teaching Hints... #4 Find a Hybrid Mentor or "Buddy"

- Get advice or feedback from colleagues.
- Seek out other faculty who are teaching hybrid courses.
Hints. . .  
**#5  Be Proactive**

- Explain the use of BB and technologies during face to face sessions.
- Encourage students to ask questions and be available to answer questions either in person or via email.
- Be clear about what students are expected to do and how you will grade assignments.
- Identify what students are to do if they need technology help after the first one or two F2F sessions.

Hints. . .  
**#6: Details Count!**

- Be flexible.
- Have a plan if technology fails!
- Ask for student feedback.
- Be responsive to student needs, questions and suggestions.

Parting Thoughts

- Hybrid classes are great, but not for every course.
- (Example: Some counseling courses)
- Be innovative and open to new ideas!
- Do a mid-course and end of course informal evaluation to find out what is working or not working for students.
- Be on the lookout for new technologies that will enhance what you are teaching.
- Try teaching a hybrid class!
References


References, Continued


University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Teaching and Learning Center. (2011)