

Title of Session: ArtsConnectEd - Online AP Art History Class

Moderator: Kevan Nitzberg

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Room: Kevan Nitzberg's Office

BJB2: please tell us about the new course you're giving, Kevan

BJB2 . o O (always interesting to learn how you integrate tech in to your classes)

DavidW agrees with BJ

KevanN: OK... Well, I am now 6 weeks into my online AP Art History course

BJB2 wonders if this is the first time Jennifer has met Kevan?

JenniferNK: I believe so

KevanN: Hi Jennifer

JenniferNK: Hi

BJB2: Kevan, be a gentleman and introduce yourself!

KevanN: oh, OK...

KevanN: I am a secondary art instructor in Minnesota, an ArtsConnectEd trainer, and past president of Art Educators of MN (to name a few hats off the top of my head)

JannatulF joined the room.

BJB2 smiles...chivalry isn't dead!

KevanN: ...and a NYC expatriate

BJB2: welcome, Jannatul.

JannatulF: hi all

JenniferNK: Cool Nice to meet you! I'm a music education student @ Texas A&M Kingsville

DavidW waves to Jannatul

JannatulF: aspiring teacher, NYC

JeffC: and a world famous clarinet player.

JenniferNK: lol naw I wouldn't say that now

BJB2: Jannatul, please introduce yourself to Kevan

KevanN: Hi Jannatul

JenniferNK blushes.

DavidW smiles

JenniferNK: lol

JenniferNK: Hi Jeff!

JannatulF: hi hi

JenniferNK smiles

KevanN: My uncle used to play the clarinet and the obie and flute

MaureenB: fourth grade teacher from Putnam County, NY

BJB2: Kevan is about to tell us about an AP Arts class that he has created

JenniferNK: awesome

JannatulF: ap arts?

JannatulF: wow

BJB2 . o O (Art History)

JannatulF: first time hearing bout that

KevanN: OK, so here goes - questions after the intro (grin)...

KevanN: Last spring after I found out that there were not enough students enrolled in my AP Art History Class for this year...

KevanN: I decided to take my course and revamp it for online teaching...

KevanN: I have a good friend at the Perpich Center for Arts Education in Gloden Valley

(Mpls. suburb), who took an interest...

KevanN: Together we presented the course to the Arts H.S. that is a part of the PCAE and they became interested as well...

KevanN: At one point it was realized that an additional partner was needed for the course to be approved by the state of Minnesota and so we partnered up with the MN Online H.S....

KevanN: After getting the MOHS onboard and getting state approval we then resubmitted my previously approved curriculum to the College Board (from whence the AP and IB courses come from)...and everyone gave it the thumbs up...

DavidW: cool!

KevanN: Over the summer, I spent roughly 70 hours downloading the material onto the server that the MNSCU system uses - Desire 2 Learn...

JannatulF: very nice

KevanN: Desire 2 Learn (D2L)...

KevanN: The course runs for 24 weeks including 3 weeks off during that time for winter and spring breaks...

KevanN: The students who enrolled (there are currently 7 with 5 active)...were sent the materials they would need to have for the course...

KevanN: Those materials included a copy of Gardner's Art Through the Ages (12th Ed.), which I supplied - those were the books sitting idle at my school...

KevanN: A binder with further information about the course including the syllabus, note-taking, test and study strategies, online resources, and 3 CDs packed with PowerPoints that I had created for each of the 34 chapters in the book (there are 1100 pages to cover)...

JannatulF: my goodness... u REALLY worked hard on this!!

JenniferNK: yea it's impressive...

KevanN: The students are required to do weekly assignments that include reading the chapters as they are assigned, chapter questions and comparisons (not every week but most), work on an online art history journal that reflects the reading using ArtsConnectEd's Art Collector feature, participate in the weekly Discussion Boards, create 3 research reports (one for each of the 3 sections), and take section tests. There is also a weekly chat for an hour every Monday.

KevanN: We are going on 2 field trips as well during the course - the 1st is this Saturday

KevanN: Okay, that about covers it...lol!

JannatulF: WOW!!!

KevanN: Questions will now be entertained...(grin)

JannatulF: sounds real hardcore... but as an AP class, I guess it has be like that

JannatulF: they will still take the AP exam right?

BJB2: so in addition to the hours of prep you devoted, how much time is required for reading and correcting student work?

KevanN: It is, but the asynchronous learning and the long duration of the course is helpful - yes, they will be able to take the test at the Perpich Center which is already an approved site

JannatulF: cool

JannatulF: do all students have one-on-one, face-to-face access to your office hours?

KevanN: I probably spend an addition 6-8 hours each week managing the site (material is updated weekly), as well as reading and grading assignments

KevanN: As there are only 5 participating, the weekly chat seems sufficient. However they can page me online and we also communicate via email

JannatulF: that's a lot of work, but u gotta take care of ur baby ! ;)

BJB2: are you still teaching a regular high school class?

KevanN: It is actually a lot of fun

KevanN: Yes, I have a full load at Anoka H.S. where I am dept. chair and will also be starting my 6th year of teaching a PSEO class at the College of Visual Arts In St. Paul over the course of 6 Saturdays starting the last weekend in January.

JannatulF: wow

JannatulF: u'll have a full plate

JannatulF: good luck w/ all of it~!!

KevanN: That's the best kind - I have a big appetite for this stuff...lol!

JannatulF: well, it's been a lot of fun; thanks everyone!

JannatulF: bye

BJB2: bye, Jannatul

KevanN: So long Jannatul

JannatulF left the room (signed off).

BJB2: Kevan, your online students have taken online classes before?

KevanN: No. This is there first experience at it apparently

BJB2: do you find any problems with the online format?

BJB2: wow! How are they doing?

BJB2 . o O (with such an enthusiastic teacher, I'd assume they're doing great!)

KevanN: I don't but they seem to have some problems in turning work in on time (grin) - some things never change

BJB2 chuckles

SherylM . o O (that is so true!)

KevanN: 2 of them have actually met every deadline to date so it is doable

BJB2: do these students carry a full course load of high school classes?

KevanN: Here is the address of one of the art history journals being compiled by one of them: <http://www.artsconnected.org/pub/MeganLewis38508.cfm>

BJB2 . o O (are they doing all HS classes online?)

KevanN: feel free to take a look

KevanN: No. all of them are in regular school except for one who is home schooled

BJB2: how cool to see students using art collector. Jennifer, are you familiar with Art Collector?

JenniferNK: no

BJB2 . o O (or the ArtsConnectEd site?)

JenniferNK: no

JenniferNK: lol

KevanN: The journal is actually the heaviest weighted component and the most self directed component of the course

KevanN: Megan's journal so far has covered most of the first section of the class - from prehistoric times through the middle ages...

BJB2: when you get a chance, Jennifer, check out www.artsconnected.org

JenniferNK: ok

KevanN: Section II deals with art beyond the European tradition and Section III deals with the Renaissance through to the present

KevanN: Jennifer, I also have files in my office that instruct you as to how to put an art collection together

JenniferNK: awesome

BJB2 . o O (and there are archived transcripts at www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

BJB2: Jennifer, I can imagine using music and art to come up with an interesting collection...for your future students

JenniferNK: sure that would be great

KevanN: you can hyperlink online sites directly into your collection allowing for images, sound and video to be part of the collection

BJB2 . o O (compose a score to go with a collection of art images?)

KevanN: and as you saw earlier, the collections are all publishable so they can be shared as well as graded on your own time

JenniferNK: I don't know how good I'm going to be at composing yet :S ha

KevanN: I spend a lot of time researching online sites that correspond to the reading and provide them with those sites which they can then use in their collections - several sites come with those additional media features

BJB2: Kevan, you are such a perfectionist! I want you to be my teacher! ;-)

JenniferNK: Yea I know right

BJB2: I wish we would do more with the Blanket the World With Peace project

KevanN: I don't know about the perfectionist part, but I find that I really get excited about infusing as many technological tools as I can incorporate into my teaching to better give students doorways with which to access, understand and get a excited about the material

KevanN: Their world is the tech world and it is rich with possibility

BJB2 nods solemnly

KevanN: Yeah, I am sorry that that project did not take hold

BJB2: there are sooo many peace sites...why can't we make our site a clearing house of peace sites?

JenniferNK: hehehehe

KevanN: No reason not to - just have to get people to use it

KevanN: This evening is a case in point...

DavidW wonders if Bj wants to lead a Peace project discussion

BJB2: we'll have to work on that idea...and get Ann involved

KevanN: Much of the choir is here but the general public is still on the outside and not necessarily even looking in

DavidW agrees with Kevan

BJB2: been there, done that, David...but maybe next year we can pursue some ideas

KevanN: David would provide the refreshments, BJ - he is quite good at that!

BJB2 smiles...yes, he is!

SherylM . o O (maybe a festival?)

DavidW: It would be nice to find a new person to lead a peace studies discussion

JenniferNK: nice

BJB2: oh, Sheryl...very cool. Maybe the theme for the next festival?

KevanN: Would that be a good venue?

SherylM . o O (it would be cool)

KevanN: I hate to admit it but I have not been able to attend one yet!

SherylM: I did this summer. I enjoyed it very much!

BJB2: maybe this is the year! Join the festival group, Kevan, if you haven't already

KevanN: Perhaps I shall.

KevanN: I do get the emails

BJB2: This has been a terrific discussion. Thanks so much for sharing, Kevan

KevanN: That qualifies me as a festival lurker!

JenniferNK: Thank you Kevan!

KevanN: You are most welcome - thanks to all of you for coming and supporting the session

SherylM: Thanks

KevanN: Well, if it is alright with all of you, I think I am going to join my wife and decorate our tree!

SherylM waves goodbye;D

BJB2 hugs Kevan. Happy holidays

JenniferNK: Awe fun!

BJB2: See you in January

BJB2 heads for the Social Studies Forum

KevanN: OK! Happy holidays to all and to all a good night!

JeffC: thanks Kevan

JenniferNK: Happy Holidays!

JenniferNK waves bye to everyone