

100 Ways to Identify Someone Teaching Ineffectively Online



Dr. Curtis J. Bonk
Professor, Indiana University
President, SurveyShare, Inc.
<http://php.indiana.edu/~cjbonk>,
cjbonk@indiana.edu



#1. Instructor responds to student emails every week and a half. Course announcements are posted 2 times during the semester: Week 1 and Week 15.

#2. In discussion forums, the instructor relies on heavy doses of sarcasm, cynicism, rudeness, and a genuine distrust of students.



#3. Instructor forgets login password and decides to wait a week before asking for help.

#4. Has wild celebration each time a student drops her online course.



#5. Starts each morning with a prayer that she will never be assigned to teach online again.



#6. Course instructor gets a course release from a grant at the last minute so a graduate student who just arrived and who basically "speaks no English" is assigned to the course.



#7. Hotlips69 is the instructor's Facebook account which was shared with the students the first week.



#8. And TakeMePrisoner1001 is this instructor's Gmail account.

#9. Favorite words are offline, on-ground, residential, face-to-face, buildings, see, touch, feel, etc.

#10. Starts each day with a pot of coffee, spends the afternoon sipping 3 Coca Cola's, and ends dinner with 3 cups of caffeinated tea. Then she goes online to teach in her well known "hypersonic" mode.

#11. Starts each online class repeatedly telling her students with what they have done wrong before what they have done right. Then wonders why students constantly complain about her courses.

#12. Class policy: "No joking allowed."

#13. Proudly wears t-shirt "Online Learning Sucks."



#14. His teaching assistant died in each of the previous 2 semesters from overwork.

#15. The instructor assigned to teach the course has been put in an asylum. Students have the option of enrolling in his section or a person named "staff."

#16. Heard the course management system is Blackboard and asks where the chalk is.

#17. Pictures of the students in the class includes 2 dogs, 1 cat, a smiley face, Darth Vader, Attila the Hun, Sigmund Freud, a colossal squid, and a few muppets.

#18. Randomly decides which students to reply to like a daily game show.

#19. Every Friday and Saturday, he changes his screen name to "Dr. Nasty."



#20. Instructor has read books and research reports on online teaching and learning by Curtis J. Bonk.

#21. Asks her secretary for her room number.

#22. Students in the class compare it to the BP oil spill; first it blew up and people died, then she tried to cover it up, and finally she admitted that she did not know what to do.

#23. Places course articles in a random order and forces students to reconstruct the weeks.

#24. Instructor thinks Blackboard and WebCT are cool.

#25. FAQs are copied from other instructors without reading through them first.

#26. In the course section "About the Instructor," students find links to a witchcraft sites, psychiatric counseling services, and alcoholics anonymous events.

#27. Instructor heard about flexible learning and inserts links to warm-up exercises from Jane Fonda, Jenny Craig, and fitness experts.

#28. Puts picture in his profile from his days smoking pot while sailing a boat in the Sydney harbor.

#29. During a synchronous meeting he reads a passage from his latest book to his students. Then he reads another passage. And another. Most of his PowerPoint slides in his online lectures are direct quotes from his articles and books. His online blog is basically a series of love letters to himself.



#30. Instructor creates a series of 1:1 synchronous quiz sessions for a course with 200 students and ends up in the hospital from a lack of sleep.



#31. The instructor assigns her students so much work that they must sign up for psychiatric counseling. So many students, in fact, that she becomes known as "Dr. Wacko."

#32. Students design t-shirts that say "I survived Dr. Wacho's Online class."

#33. Amazingly, the t-shirt design goes viral across the online learning world. The company runs such a huge profit, it starts franchising the online teaching shirt business.

#34. Dr. Wacko herself buys one of those shirts and proudly wears it to department meetings.



#35. Students then produce a YouTube video of Dr. Wacko's online teaching mistakes and it goes viral. T-shirt sales soar. A Dr. Wacko channel is created in YouTube as well as the Wacko wiki and Double Wacko Podcast hour hosted by yours truly.

#36. The students in the course find out that Dr. Wacko is certified to teach online by the University of Phoenix.

#37. Instructor's name is found in RateMyProfessor.com and the reviews aren't pretty.

#38. Instructor comes in late to a synchronous session and says to the students, "Sorry I'm late, I was having problems with my modem."



#39. She tells students she will have online office hours each Thursday morning at 4 am for 10-15 minutes.

#40. Informs students she will grade everything at the end of the semester.

#41. Instructor sets an example by being the very last one to post each week and she does so at the very last second with a different apology each week.

#42. Students give the instructor a nickname: "Dr. Procrastinator."

#43. This is somewhat of an improvement to her previous nickname of "Dr. No."

#44. Student sends instructor a note that her grandfather passed away and will miss the synchronous session for that week. Instructor asks student to bring her laptop and Webcam to the funeral parlor and show the class her grandfather in his casket.



#45. Assigns students Star Wars names and assumes the role of Obiwan Kenobe...homely looking girl assigned to be Jabba the Hut is not amused.



#46. Instructor brings a wooden CPR dummy to a synchronous class session and announces it will be the teaching assistant for the online class and assigns it an office and office hours.

#47. During this same class session, the instructor wears a hood with an eye patch and periodically makes strange gurgling sounds.

#48. Instructor then takes off the hood and says, "Ahoy Matey! Well shiver me timbers, we will be usin' Moodle in this class; no Blackboard t' pirate. Arrrrr!!!!!!! Them swashbucklers t' be aye. Yoo-ho-ho!!! Takin' t' suin' everyone in their wakes. Those scalleywags!"



#49. Then he says... "T' only course requirement be that students must attend international talk like a pirate day." "Some o' t' class may be later assigned t' wash t' poop deck singin' yoo-ho-ho and others be walkin t' plank. Arrr."



#50. And to create some interest and variety in the online forums, on odd weeks of the course they must all talk like pirates. Or I should say, "And t' create some interest and variety in t' online forums, on odd weeks o' t' course they must all talk like pirates."

#51. "So, who be with me now on this? Who will sign up for me class? All say "I" mateys....all say "I!"



#52. Instructor chews gum, drinks beer, and eats dinner during synchronous session.

#53. Instructor pays for prepackaged content and 2 teaching assistants so he can go visit his girlfriend in Brazil.

#54. Over a span of ten years teaching online, the instructor creates 50 different online assignments. He then gives his students the option of completing any 4 of these 50; course syllabus expands to 100+ pages.

#55. Every morning, the instructor sends an email message to her students with the first six words being "Work harder you puny brained people."

#56. Her teaching assistant assumes the name Edward Scissorhands.

#57. Guest speakers in her class include Dancing Matt Harding from "Where in the Hell is Matt" YouTube video fame; unfortunately, Dancing Matt does not show up and no one knows where in the hell he is.

#58. Instructor babbles, "you got my stapler" whenever someone asks a question in the weekly synchronous chat session. No one knows what he is talking about.



#59. Same instructor repeatedly warms up for a synchronous chat with his students by saying, "Houston we have a problem."



**#60. Instructor uses random quotes from Wikiquote to respond to student emails and online discussion postings...
"The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is at all comprehensible."
Albert Einstein, March 1936**

#61. Instructor starts the synchronous session with a poll that asks have you had any of the following in the past 24 hours: crack cocaine, aspirin, a cup of coffee, or dark chocolate in the past 24 hours. A simple yes or no will do. Then he asks his students how to score some of each.

#62. Some 60 percent of students drop after the first week and the remaining 40 are found bungee jumping with a knife in hand to cut the chord.

#63. Instructor proudly announces that everyone from last year's class almost finished their final projects.

#64. Instructor starts an online dating service in the course café.

#65. Then the instructor, who was recently divorced for the 7th time, is the first to post his profile.



#66. University administrators find out...and...suddenly they start posting their profiles as well.

#67. University changes its' name to "Matchmaker U."

#68. Instructor holds a synchronous session where he practices his new skills in ventriloquism with his dummy.

#69. Professor creates a social ice breaking activity in Facebook wherein students are asked to find the most embarrassing and incriminating information on other students in the class. Bonus points are awarded for those finding the most dirt.

#70. Instructor is terribly shy and gulps three glasses of wine before each online session. A bottle of whiskey is always at the ready.



#71. Instructor dons a Star Trek outfit for each synchronous session and stands on a make-shift bridge in his home office saying "Ok, #1, take us to warp 9 power and get us out of this intergalactic hell hole."



#72. Instructor brings his poodle to the MoodleMoot conference and a several doggie clean up bags. He thought he was attending "Poodle Poop."

#73. Another instructor decides to attend MoodleMoot for the first time and forgets to interact with his students all week.

#74. After dozens of student complaints, police break down the door to the instructor's apartment and find out it really is a kangaroo on the other end.

#75. Instructor waits until Week 6 to email his students about the class assignments.

#76. Instructor used to teach the class at 10 am each Tuesday and Thursday face-to-face. So he checks each T/Th at 10 a.m. and sees who is online...he then sends a text message to those who are not.

#77. Instructor has a social ice breaking session where students are asked to post 2-3 visuals that link to their sir name. The instructor, Professor Bonk, sets an example by posting a few seedy pics related to his name.

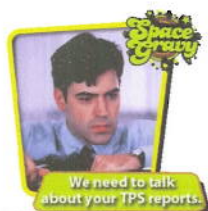
#78. Instructor attends MoodleMoot conference dinner on Tuesday night with hopes of discovering ideas for teaching his online class.

#79. Instructor is from China and he assigns students to read articles each week written in Chinese which he has conveniently translated for them using Babbelfish.

#80. While responding to his students, he has his TV on which is strategically located next to his computer and his favorite radio station blaring behind him and his kids are having a party in the next room.

#81. Her grandparents are visiting and the instructor asks her 98 year old grandmother to chat with her students during online office hours so she can get a break.

#82. Instructor secretly hires assignment graders from India.



#83. Instructor taught the first online economics courses for politicians in 1995. Students listed in the course included John Howard, Kevin Rudd, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, and George W. Bush.



#84. Instructor creates a Web page with links to sites such as AcademicTerm papers.com, The Evil House of Cheat, FreeEssays.com, and 20 other such sites and then warns students not to use these sites.

#85. Instructor scans her tattered lecture notes from her introductory statistics course from the past 20 years and post them online...she then assumes that this is the class.

#86. Other statistics instructors soon become jealous of her "effective" teaching methods.

#87. Over $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the class are members of the Taliban and rest work for Al-Qaeda.

#88. Worse, course testimonials are from Osama bin Laden and Afghani Taliban leader Mullah Omar.

#89. Students find two year old obituary note for the instructor and realize that someone is cutting and pasting in old comments that the instructor made in previous years to the discussion forum.

#90. Instructor starts the first week by telling his students that this will be the hardest, butt-kicking class they have ever experienced.

#91. To arouse interest in an online course on sex education, the instructor changes his sir name to Bonk.

#92. Each week students must endure a 2-3 hour lecture from the professor.

#93. Instructor takes a three week holiday during the semester and teaches online from a clothing optional beach.

#94. Instructor is still using Mosaic and Netscape as her primary Web browsers. Every new technology tool is a problem.



#95. Instructor did not list her name or contact information in the syllabus and never introduced herself to her students. She did create a "guess the instructor's name" thread in the online café. Winner gets 2 bonus points.

#96. Instructor announces that they will have a weekly role play with someone assuming the role of Ned Kelly each week.



#97. After two years of success with that role play activity, the instructor changes his name to Ned Kelly.



#98. Instructor becomes so enamored with Ned Kelly that he changes the role play activity to a séance and attempts to bring ol' Ned back to life.



#99. Instructor has attended a Masterclass at Moodle moot in Melbourne where she heard Dr. Bonk tell people that the Devil's Advocate or Bloodletter is the most important one to assign, so she assigns everyone that role each week.



#100. The same instructor attends this dinner session and is taking copious notes on this talk at this very moment.



Curt Bonk, Indiana University
cjbonk@indiana.edu
<http://php.indiana.edu/~cjbonk/>

Talk is posted at Bonk's archived talks:
<http://www.trainingshare.com/>

