

A Disappearing Act:

Are we losing our content in online Humanities/Art Courses?

A 200 word proposal

By

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Art and Humanities courses typically offer insights and viewpoints into the history of humankind and important human achievements which include the disciplines of philosophy, creative critical thinking/problem solving, visual creativity, history, religion, literature, and musical accomplishments. A balanced undergraduate education includes them for full educational validity. We trace these historically back to classical antiquity (*humanitas*, Latin for human nature, civilization and kindness). Historically, the Italian Renaissance used the word, *umanisti*; the traditional classroom setting affords the professor a respectable forum to present humanities curriculum. However, my main concern in teaching humanities and art courses in the online environment is the absence of this contact replaced by words and video. Instructional titles are also changing Professor/Lecturer to that of Facilitator in the online environment. An illusion of freedom is presented sans classroom ambience. We may lose that precious and important element that is so important to teaching humanities and arts in the first place, human contact. The online environment promotes utopian promises like the following: *Using chat, video conferencing, phone calls, email, social media, bulletin boards, and more, you'll stay connected with fellow students and faculty, building personal networks along the way.* I will provide online instructional lessons during my panel presentation.

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A 50 word abstract

A traditional classroom environment with a physical professor present is a time honored instructional structure. The rise of the online environment presents unique educational challenges. Facilitators replace professors. Syllabi and lessons are devised by content developers falling short of the academic rigor needed. The lack of content frustrates the professor.