Hi Jim,

Happy New Year! I have a feeling that this is going to be a good year. I hope you do too!

Today is the first day of the Climate Change in Four Dimensions MOOC. We have 11,000 students and are learning something new frequently!

In regard to the MOOC, we will be meeting to discuss the course evaluation for the MOOC (We have one that we use for all of our courses, but thought it best to revisit for this unique environment.) I'm attaching the syllabus, the URL to join, and a copy of our current course eval (that will change for this course). We have a pre-test and final exam (which we are using for post test) in both the MOOC and the accompaniment earn credit Blackboard course where there is more instructor and student engagement and more feedback and direction. There may be something there to explore in regard to learning outcomes. We also are collecting demographic data on each student through a questionnaire called "Getting to Know You". If you join the course, you can investigate all of these elements.

Coursera create an account: https://www.coursera.org/Register,
Climate Change in Four Dimensions: https://www.coursera.org/course/4dimensions

You have experience with sizing projects, so perhaps you can suggest something appropriate.

In regard to our Blackboard Courses, I have an instructor in mind who is teaching a face to face course this quarter that is also taught by her in a fully online format every other quarter. She did something inventive this past quarter, she sent out an individual email to each student and encouraged them to share their unique perspective in the Discussion Board. She called out their specific background as an important view for the topics at hand. This instructor/student engagement increased the frequency and level of participation in the DB. With their "fresh eyes" your students may see something new to investigate. This is an Human Resources course.

And, of course, we collect course evaluations on all of our courses (see attached). It could be that comparative analysis of face to face and online course evals in different disciplines would be interesting to investigate.

And, as I believe you indicated, the potential to evaluate any one activity in either the MOOC or the HR course and consider ways in which the activity and learning could be enhanced by leveraging new approaches, technologies, crowd sourcing, etc. would be valuable.

Please let me know what you need.

Best wishes,

Beth

-----Original Message-----
From: Jim Levin [mailto:jalevin@ucsd.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 1:19 PM
To: Meyer, Elizabeth
Subject: online learning

Hi Beth,

Hope you had a merry holiday season.

My course focusing on online learning started yesterday, and so I wanted to touch base with you about how the online SIO course you talked about is going. Also, if students in this class were interested in working with an instructor of a UCSD Extension online course, would that be possible? I'd like to arrange things so that any interactions are mutually beneficial.

Jim