What is a Hybrid Course? Basic Definitions and FAQ for the Novice

- A *Hybrid course* combines “face-to-face classroom instruction with online learning and reduced classroom contact hours or reduced seat time” (Educause Center for Applied Research, March 2004).
- At FSU, a *Hybrid course* is where no more than 50% of the weekly contact hours are delivered via the Internet and remaining weekly contact hours are delivered face to face.
- Hybrid course sections are designated in Banner as “HB1 – HB9”.
- Online courses offered for 16 weeks are designated “D1 – D3”.

Benefits of Hybrid Learning

Enhanced opportunities for teaching:

- It is possible to achieve course goals and objectives more effectively when faculty have the opportunity to implement a variety of strategies both online and in the classroom.
- The hybrid model allows faculty to respond immediately to the entire class population with solutions to course problems or anomalies.
- Faculty can introduce innovative interactive and independent learning activities that are not possible in traditional courses.
- Automating some basic activities such as quizzes, grading, and surveys increases instructor efficiency.
- Incorporating hybrid courses in the course offerings improves the efficiency of classroom use; reduces campus traffic; and helps solve parking issues.

Student engagement:

- Hybrid courses can expand the interaction of instructor-to-student and student-to-student relationships to a greater extent than either the completely traditional or totally online course.
- Hybrid courses provide the advantage of personal interaction with faculty and scheduling flexibility.
A self-conscious or less confident student who hesitates to participate in the traditional classroom discussions is likely to be more comfortable in an online format.

Non-traditional students experience more flexibility with employment schedules and child care issues, which in turn allows increased flexibility for course work. Economic impact is beneficial – reducing transportation and/or childcare expenses

**Hybrid Models**

One of the strengths of the hybrid model is that it provides a broad framework for which instructors may develop and teach their courses using this model. At FSU, no more than 50% of the contact hours should occur online because anything over 50% is considered an online course.

Instructors have a many choices in how to deliver hybrid courses....consult your course syllabus and/or instructor for specifics.

**I’m registered for a Hybrid course: what do I do next?**

1) Periodically check Blackboard to determine when the instructor has made the course and the syllabus “available.”

2) Do not panic if your name does not show up in the class roster – that simply means the course is not yet “available.” Keep checking!

3) Read the syllabus thoroughly, paying specific attention to face-to-face meetings and

4) activities scheduled for online participation, particularly those with a time constraint or limitation.
   - If the instructor has an activity scheduled from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m., do not log into Blackboard at 3:30 and expect access.

5) If you have questions about the course content before the class begins, contact the instructor by whatever method he or she prefers -- by email, office phone, or during posted office hours.

6) If the instructor is not available, questions should be addressed to the Department Chair or his or her surrogate.