Teaching Law Online


Subject: How to Be a Better Teacher

Useful for: Useful for experienced teachers making the move from in-person to online teaching.

Format: Chapters with index, with additional resources listed in several appendices.

Reviewer’s Comments:

Teaching Law Online does not cover every single consideration necessary to build an online law course. It is geared toward people who are already teaching, but who want (or need) to create a distance education class. It does, however, provide a short, clear roadmap for developing such a course.

The book functions more like a checklist to all of the decisions that need to be made in creating a virtual class. It describes the choices that need to be made, such as delivery method (synchronous, asynchronous, etc.), and learning outcomes. The author also clearly explains all of the items that are hallmarks of teaching online. For example, the book discusses collaboration and peer assessment, developing rubrics, cultivating tone and trust within the class, and more. Moreover, Teaching Law Online covers the ABA Standards related to distance education, and issues for tenure-track faculty teaching online courses. Finally, it has several appendices with lists of additional resources for each aspect covered in the book.

The value of this volume really lies in its brevity. Rather than overwhelming the reader with every possible option related to creating an online course or every possible theory of online learning, the author provides an outline with enough information to proceed as well as a list of other sources to fill-in any of the desired details. In reality, the steps provided in the book will be enough for many experienced teachers to successfully develop an online course.

Reviewed by: Robin Schard, University of Miami, in 2019