Structuring Flexibility

Benefits of taking a flexible stance to teaching:

- Reflects a philosophy of teaching that recognizes that each dynamic classroom community is unique and has elements of the unexpected. Every class is composed of individuals, each of whom responds in different ways to the same scenario. Each class is a unique shared performance.

- Embodies a teaching approach that is both preemptive and responsive.

Tools to facilitate flexible instruction:

1. **Course Calendar Delivered Electronically**
   Plans, readings, assignments, exams and deadlines can change. A flexible syllabus allows an instructor to modify the schedule in response to student interests, difficulties, or concerns.

2. **A Modular Organization to Lesson Planning**
   - A lesson plan organized and conceptualized in a modular way (individual topics), allows for more flexibility in the classroom.
   - If a successful classroom activity is taking more time than expected, an instructor conceptualizing of one lesson as a series of micro-lessons may have more flexibility addressing multiple learning objectives. Which part of the lesson can be eliminated or shortened? Could instruction be delivered in another way? Can students be responsible for learning this outside of class? (see #3)

3. **Course Management Software (ICON)**
   - Web-based tools can facilitate flexible teaching through providing password-protected alternative learning spaces, extending beyond the physical classroom.
   - Lecture notes, a video clip of a mini-lecture, or a PowerPoint can be uploaded to ICON.
   - Discussion can take place in an online discussion forum.

References:

