Myths and Facts About Online Classes

Read each slide carefully.
Use the down arrow to advance the slide show.
MYTH

Online courses are easier than traditional, face-to-face courses.
Online courses are at the very least as rigorous as face-to-face courses.

Most students are actually more challenged by online courses because they must take charge of their own learning.
FACT

Because students are not in the classroom with the instructor, there is a great deal of reading required.
FACT

Students need to go into an online class knowing that the class will actually require more time and effort than a traditional class.
In order to be successful with the course content, all students should plan to devote at least **12 hours PER WEEK** working on this course and its assignments.
MYTH

Since this class is online, regular class activities, such as taking notes, are not necessary.
FACT

As with all classes, taking notes is a part of the learning process.

Students who want to be successful with the course concepts should take notes from their reading and from any instructional videos that may be provided.
Course notes should be studied regularly in order to move the concepts from short-term memory to long-term memory.

Notes should also be studied before all major tests and all on-campus exams.
MYTH

Since there are no time or place limits, all of the work can be done at one time and it is not necessary to attend class regularly.
FACT

It is true that students can access online classes at any time and from any place appropriate Internet connectivity is available.

However, online courses are structured and organized so that content is delivered on a set schedule to ensure active participation and maximum learning.
Students who want to be successful with online courses must keep a regular schedule for each class and do a good job with time management.
FACT

Deadlines for completing course assignments are posted and expected to be met.
MYTH

Since online classes are so flexible, it is okay if a student misses an entire week or two of class -- the assignments will still be there and available when the student returns.
It is true that many people choose online classes because of the flexibility.

However, deadlines are deadlines.
FACT

If a student misses turning in any assignment by the posted due date, a grade of zero will be assigned.
FACT

Working ahead is always in the best interest of students so that there are no issues with trying to submit an assignment at the very last minute.
MYTH

Online courses are condensed, easier versions of traditional courses.
FACT

Online courses cover the exact same content that a traditional course covers.
MYTH

If a student’s computer breaks down, the instructor will excuse them from any missed assignments or at least give them more time to complete the missed assignments.
FACT

All students must have a back-up plan in case their primary computer malfunctions, they experience other technical issues such as problems with an Internet service provider, or if they travel during the semester.
Students are expected to follow the back-up plan when necessary so that they may continue their coursework and not miss posted deadlines.
MYTH

An online course will teach the students everything they need to know about using the computer for the course.
FACT

Students must have prior skills in word-processing, e-mail, Internet use and research.

Students should also be comfortable with typing on a keyboard.
FACT

Students should also complete the iCollege (WebCT Vista for GPC Online) orientation sessions prior to beginning the first class.
MYTH

Because this is an online course, students can be invisible and remain anonymous.
FACT

All GPC Online courses have required discussion components and these discussions count toward the attendance requirements and/or participation grade in the class.

(Read the course syllabus for the details for this course.)
Most students enjoy getting to know their classmates and instructor through threaded discussions.

These discussions allow for an exchange of ideas in which all students may openly speak up in a protected, non-threatening environment.
FACT

Inappropriate posts, or those unrelated to the discussion question, may be removed by the instructor.

Read all discussion questions carefully and respond in an appropriate, timely, and thorough manner.
Myth

In an online class, there is no teacher or the teacher doesn’t really interact with the students.
FACT

All online courses at GPC have instructors who log in regularly to check on assignments, read discussions, and check for messages from students.