

Statement by collaborators about the value the wiki adds to their courses:

Sue Hagedorn and I (Cheryl Ruggiero) worked together to create sections of this course for a previous semester, based on Sue's courses in yet earlier semesters--Sue was the first to offer Introduction to Science Fiction and Fantasy online. One thing we were not satisfied with was student interaction and engagement. The course's large size, 80 students per section, made tracking/crediting students' replies in the forums prohibitive, so we did not require them; the forums devolved into repositories for student reading journals, with the instructor as the primary audience--definitely not the intention. Now that Karen has introduced the wiki, students immediately have an audience of their peers as well as interested faculty; we anticipate that this audience will grow, perhaps beyond the boundaries of the class. The wiki is publication to real readers, networked, and collaborative--even if students simply post and run, they must post in context, always considering their ideas in connections with the work of others. This development has changed the way both the students and I think about teaching and learning, and it has generated new student attitudes and enthusiasm. The wiki is an exciting, creative enhancement to this course.

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