

STEVEN R. VAN HOOK, PhD**567 W. Channel Island Blvd #425****Port Hueneme, CA 93041****(805) 253-0250****<http://wwmr.us> / steven@wwmr.us****Presentation Topics**
On-Site / Zoom / Virtual World

Dr. Steven R. Van Hook has designed and taught communication and culture classes for universities



in the USA and abroad for 25 years, including one of the first hybrid virtual courses for UCSB in 2000. He has led in academic positions including faculty senator, ombudsman, curriculum development, accreditation review, course design, and instructor mentoring. He is President of Educare Research, a nonprofit program advancing international education and technologies. He's been a newspaper columnist, radio reporter, TV news anchor, and podcast host. He was a television producer and bureau chief in Moscow, USSR from 1989-91; and for three years directed public education media programs in Ukraine through the United States Agency for International Development

(USAID). He served as a trainer and officer for organizations including VISTA, Head Start, and the US Coast Guard. He has a PhD specializing in transcultural learning, and is published in scholarly journals including UNESCO's *Prospects*, and by SAGE; and has presented on virtual world education to administrators and groups at UCLA, UCSB, VWBPE, VWEC, *The Science Circle*, and elsewhere.

Research website: <http://wwmr.us>

Transcultural Course Design for International Students

Educators in online and on-ground university courses are frequently challenged to accommodate the wide range of cultures among a growing diversity of students. This presentation considers how might we create a common positive resonance in a culturally diverse room, what themes and images might help to do that, and how might these tools be applied to effective transcultural course design. We further consider how these transcultural tactics may be used in classroom integration, illustrating class lecture topics, creating resonance in classroom and online discussions, and how future innovations might advance global learning opportunities.

Six Best Writing Tips

A select group of communication professors at the University of Chicago designed a writing course for busy graduate students and executives — with six best tips and tactics to dramatically improve written and spoken communications, with no mention of punctuation or grammar. The presentation includes illustrative practical skills and examples that can be used when writing for academia, business, and even letters home.

Virtual World Teaching Tactics and Trends

Virtual World learning may provide immersive hand-on experience for engaging students and offering a sense of place and belonging so important to student success and retention in online education. This presentation covers: evolution of virtual world learning, academic necessities for learning alternatives, socioeconomic drivers, fulfilling student desires for immersive experience, benefits of experiential learning, providing dimensional sense of space, sample in-world learning centers, forming partnerships between academia and emerging technology, effective gamification of learning, bridging the digital divide, and a scheduled field trip to a Virtual World campus.

Hope on the Horizon

As worldwide disasters and destruction may confound us in a sea of despair, a sea-wise scan of the horizon spots some islands of hope ahead. Along with the epochal shifts of today, we all also share common bonds that tie us to the unlimited possibilities in technologies, economics, education, and shared abundance. Let's look beyond today's disorienting headlines into the solutions already at hand – and yet ahead in decades to come – as experts in media, technology, academia, science, business, and society shed rays of hope.

Best Career Advice to Offer Our Students

Educators might often be ill-prepared for the one lecture topic they may be best suited for -- advising students how to advance a career in their field of study. This presentation covers: career trends according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, using your own career success as a teaching example, 21st Century job skills, creating career opportunities, beneficial internship and volunteer options, keeping current in the global marketplace, professional networking opportunities, self-marketing and social media suggestions for the job search, and other tips for career success.

Primers and Prompts for Enticing Lectures

Teachers may be challenged by the attention barriers lodged between their lessons and students' minds. This presentation considers how to help prime the learning flow in our class lectures. The session includes a brief overview of how the brain learns, how memories are recorded, how to optimize our learning limits, effective use of priming words, affective appeals for grabbing attention, sensation transference in perceptions, priming a room for behaviors and mindsets, and more tools to help impact the brains of our learners for the better.

Handling Difficult, Disruptive & Aggressive Students

Many of us who are experienced educators in online or on-ground classrooms might know for sure that all it takes is one disruptive student to derail a class and drain the joy right out of teaching. This presentation considers steps before a course starts to set a tone and norms for classroom behaviors, the importance of instructor snap impressions, sample syllabus statement for civility in the classroom, tips to establish classroom leadership, how to set tech policies, overcoming the brain's negative bias, dissonant and resonant class messages, the roots of disruption, dealing with prolific disruptors, controlling critical events, right instructor mindset and affirmations, countering the aggression cycle, three modes of intervention, the Mad Student Syndrome, useful classroom defusing phrases, dealing with self-destructive students, and other best tips to effectively resolve classroom conflicts.

Transcultural Beats

There may be many means to bridge and calm cultural differences — beyond transcultural themes and images. This presentation considers how musical rhythms can strike a common beat among multi-cultured gatherings. Sample audio clips demonstrate 20 years of observable rhythmic resonance in culturally-diverse international classrooms.

Exosociology: Our Transgalactic Commonalities

Recent military reports of unexplained objects flying in our skies have sparked renewed interest in alien visitors. Some scientists predict that we will have contacted advanced civilizations on other worlds within 25 years. What might they be like, and -- more importantly – how might they act? A researcher in human transcultural relations considers what universal evolutionary social traits we could share in common with our galactic alien neighbors.