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Sunday, 02 December 2012 13:48

For some students, online courses are a chance to go to class without ever leaving their beds. But for others, online classes offer educational opportunities that would have never been possible before.

“Every student is made differently,” Ellis Hurd, professor of education at ISU, said.

“That traditional setting does not work well for everyone. The one outgoing student may benefit greatly from a classroom, but in the online forum, more soft-spoken students can participate, and they often are phenomenal students that bring up amazing, critical points for the class,” Hurd added. Online courses offer opportunities for a greater variety of students to participate in a course, and the online system also allows for more practical problem solving. In Hurd’s classes, he has his course material forum, but also a forum wherein students can ask questions and solve problems between one another.

Students also see many benefits from the unique style of teaching online classes have to offer.

“One of the coolest things about my online classes has been being able to learn at my own pace. You never feel rushed by the material, or like the class is moving too slow for you,” Chris Faxel, sophomore physical education major, said.

Many online courses at the school are considered hybrid, where most the information is presented online, but there are still some in class or face-to-face meetings.

Although there are many benefits from this new system of teaching, pure online courses still face drawbacks.

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