Discussion 1 - Definition of DL

Wikipedia has provided a rich page on distance learning history, technologies, models, etc. Here we are evaluating learners' cognitive (and meta-cognitive) understanding of this field in these areas.

Here is the first question:

In your opinion, is this page in support of applying the traditional teaching methods to online courses? Bring rationale.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distance_education

My Answer:

From my reading of the article, I didn't notice any signifcant advocacy for or against applying traditional teaching methods to online courses. Much of the article insead explains the benefits and strengths of particular approaches to distance learning (such as the case of paced versus self-paced courses). Criticism is, however, discussed: for example, the Criticism section discusses the potential issue of applying traditional teaching methods to an online course that has no upper limit on size. Defense of the practice is included in this portion, with Daniel Barwick conceding that the negative impact of large, traditionally-taught online courses may exist for certain subjects, but that there has not been enough research and experimentation done to conclusively say that such a practice should be avoided altogether.

The impression I get from my reading is that distance learning has its own set of advantages, disadvantages, benefits and challenges compared to a more traditional teaching method, and this extends into the various ways that distance learning courses can be taught. It might be better said that the point of the article is that those interested in distance learning for whatever reason should be aware of the negatives as much as they are of the positives.