Online Teaching Considerations
American Studies

What do you want to happen in your online course? What are your goals for your teaching and students' learning?

How are you going to enhance the likelihood that each "thing" will happen, that the students will realize your goals? Serendipity is no more likely to occur and move someone toward your goal online than it is in material real life?

Who are your students? What are their expectations (of you, the course, their learning)? What might you expect of them?

In what ways will/might the online environment affect how you teach, how students learn, etc.? Do you expect the online environment to (a) make getting to know the students more difficult, (b) ensure anonymity, and (c) make building a learning community more difficult?

What is your teaching style in a traditional class setting? What adjustments, if any, do you expect to have to make for online teaching?

How do you identify, and adjust for, student learning styles in a traditional class? How are you going to identify, and adjust for, multiple learning styles in an online environment?

How do you deal with the unexpected in a traditional class? How do you expect you'd deal with the unexpected in an online class?

Is making students think important to you in a traditional class setting? If it is, how do you enhance the likelihood that you will succeed in making them think in the traditional setting? What are you going to do to achieve the same goal online?

What do you expect of class discussions, and how do you manage them in a traditional setting? How do you expect the online environment to alter discussions? How do you get students involved? How do you get them to talk deeply about issues, topics, etc.? What are you going to do to manage online discussions?

How do you respond to questions from students in a traditional class? How are you planning to do so online?
How, and why, do you evaluate student work and achievement in a traditional class? How are you going to do so online; what limits and possibilities for evaluation does the online environment offer?

What do you expect to get from teaching online? How is teaching online going to fit -- going to have to fit -- with other things, responsibilities in your life?

How do you determine that a given teaching experience was "good" or "not so good" (or somewhere in between, or even downright lousy) in a traditional class? How are you going to do so in, during, after an online teaching experience?