

ECI 647 - Online Learning

Syllabus

Spring Semester, 2004

Instructor Information

John Hollenbeck, Ph.D.
Old Dominion University
Darden College of Education
Room 165-2
Norfolk, VA 23529-0161

Office: (757) 683-3850
Fax: (757) 683-5862
Email: jhollenb@odu.edu
AIM Handle: drjohnonaim
Office hours: Mondays 1 PM - 4 PM
Thursdays (online only) 4 PM - 7 PM
Others by appointment

Course Description

This class is part of the Masters program offered by the Instructional Design and Technology program in Educational Curriculum and Instruction. In this class we concentrate on asynchronous web-based learning environments.

There are no prerequisites for the course, but the following items are helpful:

- Working knowledge of computers and the World Wide Web
- Understanding of Instructional Design and/or curriculum development
- An ability to create Web pages either with HTML or an authoring program

This course will deal with issues in online learning such as computer conferences, online moderating, knowledge management, just in time training and reforms in education made possible by this new communication environment.

This course emphasizes learning by participation. A thorough grounding in current Web educational movements and standards will be covered. The semester work will be divided between online tutorials, small group interactions and the completion of provided exercises. Students will be expected to devote at least 8 hours per week to mastery of course topics, and will be encouraged to pursue personally meaningful topics.

It is assumed all participants have access to and are able to use a Windows and/or Macintosh computer at an advanced level for class work. Students must be able to connect to the World Wide Web in order to complete online work. A dedicated high-speed connection is recommended.

Participants are free to choose a web-authoring environment according to their interests and needs. While it is possible to create web pages entirely in simple text editors such as Notepad or TextEdit, it is recommended that participants plan on investing in a more dedicated authoring environment. Examples for the class will be given in text editors and Macromedia Dreamweaver.

Participants may purchase the Macromedia Web Authoring Studio at a greatly reduced price with student ids. This four-application suite costs approximately \$185. It is not a requirement of the class to purchase this software.

This class is conducted asynchronously online; there will be no scheduled meetings either physically or online. Discussions will take place in an active bulletin board environment. Student work will be posted to a common class web site where Dr. Hollenbeck can access and comment upon the work.

Prerequisite

ECI 530 or equivalent computer skills

Aims and Possibilities

The general topic of this course concerns using asynchronous networked electronic environments to provide educational experiences. General outcomes from this course include:

- Introduction: Expertise in using an online educational package (Blackboard)
- Interaction: Facility in communicating and interacting within a computer-mediated conference
- Design: Application of online learning to a specific educational problem

It is my purpose to help you become well versed in the field of online learning and confident in your abilities to organize, develop and teach in this medium.

Each student will begin this semester by developing a plan for their learning to be carried out during the semester. This plan will result in a contract between you and I. It should specify the following:

- The course requirements (which I will provide)
- Your adaptation of those requirements to your needs
- The products you will produce to accomplish learning
- How those products should be assessed
- What you want from ODU and me in terms of resources and support

I understand that learning contracts are usually not a part of institutional education, and this may well be the first time you have had to create such a plan. As such, I will provide a guide to filling out this plan, and we will review it many times over the semester.

A nice introduction to learning contracts may be found at http://www.dmu.ac.uk/~jamesa/teaching/learning_contracts.htm.

The creation of a learning contract will begin in the first weeks of class.

Course Texts

Required Texts

- None. Readings will be assigned and accessed weekly on the World Wide Web. Some may be distributed in Adobe Acrobat. A free reader is available.
- Lectures accessed by the World Wide Web and distributed in Microsoft PowerPoint. A free reader is available.

Bibliography

- Horton, Sarah (2000). *Web Teaching Guide*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Williams, Robin and Tollett, John (2000). *The Non-Designer's Web Book*, 2nd Edition. Berkeley, California: Peachpit Press
- Tiffin, J & RajasinghamIn, L. (1995). *In Search of the Virtual Class*. London: Routledge.
- Hanna, D.E., Glowacki-Dudka, M., & Conceicao-Runlee, S. (2000). *147 Practical Tips for Teaching Online Groups*. Madison, WI: Atwood Publishing.
- Palloff, R.M. & Pratt, K. (1999). *Building Learning Communities in Cyberspace: Effective Strategies for the Online Classroom*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Required Skills and Access

- Use of Internet, including electronic mail and the World Wide Web
- Ability with PowerPoint, Web Graphics, and an authoring program
- An active ODU email account
- Access to the Internet from the main location of study

Class Policies

Interaction Policy

Students are responsible for weekly material, and are valued for contributions to discussion. It is understood that most students are involved with professional and personal obligations, but in taking this course you are responsible to complete the assigned work and interact online with fellow participants.

There are no regularly scheduled meetings, either physically or online. The minimum amount of interaction required for this class is that each participant log into the Blackboard course environment at least two different times per week and contribute at least four postings directly related to the week's work. See Participation Information (below) for the course Web address.

Please note: This class may not be taken as an independent study.

Coursework Policy

Competency is graded by the grasp of assigned weekly material. This assessment will be made through written quizzes, quality of discussion and assigned homework. It is expected that assigned work be completed in a timely manner and in such a way that it reflects a considered effort towards mastery of the subject.

Participation

Blackboard is a secure online course environment maintained by Old Dominion University. Each participant receives an account in the ECI 575 course environment upon successful enrollment in the class. Once enrolled, the course may be found at the following Web address:

- <http://www.blackboard.odu.edu/>

To log into Blackboard, you will need to know your ODU email account name and password. It will also be helpful to have some basic understanding of Blackboard prior to beginning the class. Please access the following Web address to address these issues:

- http://www.odu.edu/dl/clt/bb/student_help_page.html

Instructional Activities

Investment

Investment in the class is evidenced by

- A regular presence in class
- Participation
- Creative contributions
- Critical Reflection

Online participation is required. The minimum amounts of participation should be:

- Logging onto Blackboard at least two times per week.
- Posting at least four meaningful interactions per week on Blackboard in areas devoted to course topic discussion.

Exams

Part One exam, Midterm exam and Final exam.

At the end of each section we will hold a "conversation" online in the form of an oral exam. Typically I will give you an opening question to consider and then we will "converse" over the course of a week. You may be asked to research a question further, explain a point more deeply, or consider alternative views.

Assignments

Lead three weekly discussions

1. Choose one book chapter and/or assigned weekly topic
2. Prepare a plan based upon our readings and your experiences
3. Submit a copy of this plan to the instructor
4. Must include the use of support materials distributed over the Web, such as:
 - PowerPoint lecture, or other computer-based presentation software
 - Study guide
 - Reading notes
 - Links to supporting resources on the Internet
 - Video
5. Lead an online discussion on the main points of that reading

Semester project

Design a 12 week online distance education learning environment utilizing appropriate media. Steps will include:

- Topic selection - what will you teach (due January 12)
- Planning document - media selection, audience, curriculum plan (due January 26)
- Prototyping - work in progress presented regularly to class (ongoing)
- Implementation of working model (due February 9)
- Distributable support materials for students (due February 23)
- Discussion of theoretical basis for design (due July March 15)
- Evaluation Model (due March 29)
- Self and Peer evaluation of project (due April 19)

All steps in this process are understood to be iterative, but good drafts should be turned in on the due dates. All aspects of the project are to be completed by April 26.

Assessment

All work is graded by the instructor based upon the criteria of the assignment according to a clear grading rubric provided with the assignment. Students may revise any work for an improved grade after the work is initially turned in. All revisions are due within a week of the return of the initial grading. Revisions will be awarded partial credit towards an improved grade.

Work is due on the date announced. Late work will be penalized unless an agreement has been reached between the student and the professor.

All work must be turned in to pass the course.

Grade Distribution.

The grade weight ranges for each activity are indicated below:

Participation	30%
Lead Discussions	20%
Final Project	20%
Unit One Exam	10%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	10%

Evaluation Criteria

Grades will be assigned using the established academic practice of letter grades. The following guidelines will be employed cumulatively for each assignment (based upon Bloom's Taxonomy of Cognitive Learning).

Grade	Concept	Description
F	No evidence of learning.	
D	Knowledge	Ability to recall facts about the subject.
C	Comprehension	Can show understanding of key concepts.
B-	Application	Able to employ the key concepts in practical way.
B	Analysis	Examine and explain how systems work.
A-	Synthesis	Work of superior quality, showing complete grasp of the subject and an ability to apply the knowledge achieve novel results.
A	Evaluation	Can gauge the quality of topic areas based upon knowledge of the field.

Honor Pledge

"I pledge to support the honor system of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member of the academic community, it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violators of the honor system. I will report to Honor Council hearings if summoned."

Honor Code

By attending Old Dominion University you have accepted the responsibility to abide by this code. This is an institutional policy approved by the Board of Visitors.

The Honor System at Old Dominion University is based on individual integrity. This system assumes that every student will accept his or her role in the University community with a feeling of self-respect and duty. Lying, cheating and plagiarism all constitute violations of the Honor System. Each piece of work submitted by you such as homework and term papers must be your own work. As a member of our community of scholars at Old Dominion University, you are expected to adhere to the above pledge.

Accommodation

Every effort will be made to accommodate those course participants with learning and/or physical disabilities. Old Dominion University offers a number of services and policies to enable everyone access to learning. A list of resources from Old Dominion University Disability Services is available on the World Wide Web at the following address:

- <http://www.odu.edu/webroot/orgs/STU/stuserv.nsf/pages/dswebpage>

Student Handbook

There are a number of services and policies that can assist and define your interactions with Old Dominion University. Please note that there are two handbooks available from Old Dominion University Student Services: One for students physically present on campus and one for students learning at a distance (TELETECHNET). Choose the document that covers your situation. Both handbooks may be accessed at on the World Wide Web at the following address:

- http://www.odu.edu/webroot/orgs/STU/stuserv.nsf/pages/student_handbook