Syllabus

Emerging Trends & Technologies in the Virtual K-12 Classroom

This course meets asynchronously online from November 11, 2013 to December 15, 2013

Instructor: Melissa Joell Loble, M.A., MBA. Want to know a little about me? Check out my bio on the "Faculty & Staff Bios Page" linked off of the left-hand menu.

Course Manager: Victoria O'Neal, M.A, M.S. Want to know a little about Victoria? Check out her bio on the "Faculty & Staff Bios" page.

Course Description

Emerging technologies are quickly gaining momentum in the field of virtual K-12 instruction. In this course we will explore how the latest trends in technology affect student learning and engagement. What innovative learning spaces and tools are available to instructors? How can instructors best utilize free and open resources to more deeply engage students in their learning? What impact can the use of emerging technologies have on student retention and performance? As a class we will discuss the possibilities and challenges of using technology in virtual environments. As learners, you will compare and contrast tools for use in K-12 instruction, as well as examine best practices for implementing and managing these tools. You will also be asked to consider the value of emerging technologies as they relate to social learning, game-based learning, and open content.

Learning Objectives

Through the successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Understand the role of technology in the distribution of content, the facilitation of collaborative activities, and the assessment of students, courses, and organizations.
- Identify and evaluate existing and emerging technologies for their value in virtual course instruction and curriculum development.
- Design and assess a learning activity that utilizes social learning tools.
- Design and assess a learning activity or curricular program that uses game-based strategies and/or badges to deepen student engagement in virtual courses.
- Research, critically evaluate, and employ open content in virtual education.
- Debate the role of MOOCs in virtual K-12 education.

Weekly Topics

Week 1: Role of Technology in the Virtual Classroom: November 11 - 17
Week 2: Emerging Trends and Technologies: Social Learning: November 18 - November 24
Week 3: Emerging Trends and Technologies: Game-based Learning and Badging: November 25 - December 1
Week 4: Utilizing Open Content: From e-Books to Learning Object Repositories: December 2 - December 8
Week 5: Review and Conclusions: December 9 - December 15

Course Format

This class consists of the following elements:

- Multiple video lectures from your instructor. These will be available starting Monday mornings (8:00 am PST). Please note that in-video questions will not be seen if video is downloaded. To see the in-video questions, you'll need to stream the videos.
- Access to lecture slides and notes from the video lectures page.
- One or more announcements from the instructor every week.
- Discussion forums. These forums will help you apply the material by interacting with other students in the course. The discussion forums will be where the majority of the learning in this course will take place.
- An assignment that will be graded by your peers.
- Assessment of three classmates' assignments.
- Weekly Quizzes (4 total) consisting of 5 multiple choice questions. You may take each quiz three times. Your highest score will be counted. Answers will be made available after your submit each quiz.
- A final quiz consisting of 35 multiple choice questions. You may take the final quiz twice. The highest score will be counted. The final exam is cumulative, covering all five weeks of material.

Weekly Readings

Given the nature of the topics explored in this course, there is no required or even recommended textbook. Each week, you will be provided with a list of resources aligned to the ideas we discuss. You are welcome to explore as many or as few of those resources as you are interested in each week. The quizzes will be based entirely on the content presented in the lectures, however you may wish to use the resources in completing the peer assignment.

Grading Scale

- Peer Assessed Assignment: There are two parts to this assignment. Part one is the submission of the assignment. Part two is the assessment of three peers’ assignments. There is a 20% penalty for not completing the required (three) peer assessments. 15%
- Quizzes 1-4: 10% per quiz- 40% total. You will have five late days that can be applied to extend the due dates of your quizzes. Late days will not be visible once the hard deadline has passed.
- Final Quiz: 45%

Statements of Accomplishment
To receive a Statement of Accomplishment, you must earn a 70% or better in this course. To receive a Statement of Accomplishment with Distinction you must earn a 90% or better in this course.

**Important Deadlines** (These are PST- Pacific Standard Time)

**PLEASE READ:** Late work is not accepted. Students will not receive any credit for late work. Please make note of the important deadlines below.

**Quiz 1:** Available on November 11, 2013 at 8:00 am. Deadline to complete quiz is November 24, 2013 at 11:55 pm.

**Quiz 2:** Available on November 18, 2013 at 8:00 am. Deadline to complete quiz is November 24, 2013 at 11:55 pm.

**Quiz 3:** Available on November 25, 2013 at 8:00 am. Deadline to complete quiz is December 1, 2013 at 11:55 pm.

**Quiz 4:** Available on December 2, 2013 at 8:00 am. Deadline to complete quiz is December 8, 2013 at 11:55 pm.

**Final Quiz:** Available on December 9, 2013 at 8:00 am. Deadline to complete quiz is December 15 at 11:55 pm.

**Peer Assessed Assignment:** Submissions are accepted starting on November 25 at 8:00 am. Deadline to complete assignment is December 3 at 11:55 pm. Students may begin assessing peer work on December 4 at 8 am. Deadline to complete the peer assessment portion is December 13 at 11:55 pm.

**Signature Track** will close on November 24, 2013 at 11:55pm.