

MEDT 7472 INTRODUCTION TO DISTANCE EDUCATION

Semester Hours: 3

Semester/Year: Fall 2015

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Office Hours Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Online Hours Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Online Support: CourseDen Home Page
<https://westga.view.usg.edu/>

CourseDen Help & Troubleshooting
<http://www.westga.edu/~distance/webct1/help>

UWG Distance Learning
<http://distance.westga.edu/>

UWG On-Line Connection
<http://www.westga.edu/~online/>

Distance Learning Library Services
<http://westga.edu/~library/depts/offcampus/>

Ingram Library Services
<http://westga.edu/~library/info/library.shtml>

University Bookstore
<http://www.bookstore.westga.edu>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a general introduction to conceptual, theoretical, and practical ideas concerning distance education, including the current status of distance learning and its impact on education. Students will become conversant in the terminology of the field of distance education, review its history, conduct research on specific areas of practice, investigate instructional and learning design

strategies, explore the technologies commonly used, and understand the unique roles and responsibilities of the distance learner and the distance instructor.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework of the College of Education at UWG forms the basis on which programs, courses, experiences, and outcomes are created. By incorporating the theme “Developing Educators for School Improvement,” the College assumes responsibility for preparing educators who can positively influence school improvement through altering classrooms, schools, and school systems (transformational systemic change). Ten descriptors (decision makers, leaders, lifelong learners, adaptive, collaborative, culturally sensitive, empathetic, knowledgeable, proactive, and reflective) are integral components of the conceptual framework and provide the basis for developing educators who are prepared to improve schools through strategic change. National principles (INTASC), propositions (NBPTS), and standards (Learned Societies) also are incorporated as criteria against which candidates are measured.

The mission of the College of Education is to provide excellence in the initial and advanced preparation of professionals for a variety of settings, to foster an innovative learning community, and to empower a faculty committed to teaching and the dissemination of knowledge. This course’s objectives, activities, and assignments are related directly to the conceptual framework and national standards, as identified below.

APPROACHES TO INSTRUCTION

This course will be delivered entirely at a distance with no face-to-face meetings (FTF). The following are the minimum requirements for completing this class successfully. You must meet these requirements to participate in the class.

- Access to a personal computer (PC or MAC) with speakers, a webcam, and a microphone to complete the course work.
- High-speed internet service (DSL, Cable, etc.) is **strongly recommended**. If high-speed internet is not available in your area, contact your instructor immediately. Completion of course requirements will be very difficult and cumbersome without high-speed service.
- Software requirements: *Microsoft Office 2007* or higher (available for free at UWG), [Adobe Reader](#), *BlackBoard Collaborate*, *Canvas*, *Wikispaces*, *blogs*, *Twitter*, *Jing* and other potentially required downloads listed in *D2L CourseDen*.

This course will be delivered 100% online. This requires the online equivalent of 2250 minutes of instruction (seat-time) and an additional 4500 minutes of supporting activities.

As such, you will be required to complete the following online activities during this course (times are approximate):

Discussion posts/blogging/	600 minutes
Audio/video instruction/	600 minutes
Other online assignments/activities	1050 minutes

Additionally, it is anticipated that students will need to work independently for twice the number minutes listed above to complete the online activities.

Instructor Note: What the above is trying to say is that you have to work about 9 hours (540 minutes) per week. The verbiage is required for our SACS accreditation, and it is awkward because we are using the old face-to-face “seat-time” trying to quantify “online seat time”. It satisfies the needs of administrators to count things. Just try to schedule in 9 hours per week for this course. If you struggle with technology, add a few more hours to that number. If you require assistance with D2L, please contact online@westga.edu or call (678)-839-6587.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. demonstrate knowledge, skills, and understanding of concepts related to distance education as they apply to instruction (Ashby, 2002; Huett, Moller, & Young, 2005; Keegan, 1986; Moore, 1989; Palloff & Pratt, 1999, 2003; Porter, 1997; Roblyer, 2001; White & Weight, 2000; Williams, Paprock, & Covington, 2004). (Lifelong Learners; Adaptive; Knowledgeable; Proactive; and Reflective; NBPTS Propositions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ISTE/NETS-T F-I.A.)
2. demonstrate continual growth in technology knowledge and skills to stay abreast of current and emerging distance education technologies (Downs & Moller, 1999; Driscoll, 1998; Hanna, Glowacki-Dudka, & Conceicao-Runlee, 2000; Keegan, 1986; Palloff & Pratt, 1999, 2003; Porter, 1997; Weiss, Knowlton, & Speck, 2000; White & Weight, 2000; Williams, Paprock, & Covington, 2004). (Leaders; Lifelong Learners; Adaptive; Collaborative; Culturally Sensitive; Knowledgeable; Proactive; and Reflective; NBPTS Propositions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ISTE/NETS-T F-I.B.)
3. apply current research on teaching and learning with technology when planning instructional systems as they relate to distance education (Huett, Moller, & Young, 2005; Huett, Moller, & Mortensen, 2005; Keller & Suzuki, 2004; Palloff, & Pratt, 1999, 2003; Sharp & Huett, 2006; Williams, Paprock, & Covington, 2004). (Decision Makers; Leaders; Lifelong Learners; Adaptive; Collaborative; Culturally Sensitive; Empathetic; Knowledgeable; Proactive; and Reflective; NBPTS Propositions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ISTE/NETS-T F-II.B.)
4. identify and apply instructional design principles associated with the development of distance education systems (Ashby, 2002; Huett, Moller, & Young, 2005; Keegan, 1986; Moore, 1989; Palloff & Pratt, 1999, 2003; Porter, 1997; Roblyer, 2001; White & Weight, 2000; Williams, Paprock, & Covington, 2004). (Decision Makers; Leaders; Lifelong Learners; Adaptive; Collaborative; Culturally Sensitive; Empathetic; Knowledgeable; Proactive; and Reflective; NBPTS Propositions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ISTE/NETS-T F-II.F.)
5. design distance education environments that meet the diverse needs of learners and instructors (Ashby, 2002; Downs & Moller, 1999; Huett, Moller, & Young, 2005; Huett, Moller, & Mortensen, 2005; Moore & Anderson, 2003; Moore & Kearsley, 2005; Keegan, 1986; Keller & Suzuki, 2004; Moore, 1989; Schweizer, 1999; Sharp & Huett, 2006; Song, 2000; Weiss, Knowlton, & Speck, 2000; White & Weight, 2000; Williams, Paprock, & Covington, 2004). (Decision Makers; Leaders; Adaptive; Collaborative; Culturally

Sensitive; Empathetic; Knowledgeable; Proactive; and Reflective; NBPTS Propositions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ISTE/NETS-T F-II.A)

6. identify and locate technology-based resources and evaluate them for accuracy and suitability for a distance education environment (Hanna, Glowacki-Dudka, & Conceicao-Runlee, 2000; Moore & Anderson, 2003; Moore & Kearsley, 2005; Roblyer, 2001; Schweizer, 1999; Weiss, Knowlton, & Speck, 2000; White & Weight, 2000; Williams, Paprock, & Covington, 2004). (Decision Makers; Leaders; Lifelong Learners; Adaptive; Collaborative; Culturally Sensitive; Empathetic; Knowledgeable; Proactive; and Reflective; NBPTS Propositions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ISTE/NETS-T F-II.C.)
7. plan for the management of distance education instructional resources within the context of learning activities (Ashby, 2002; Huett, Moller, & Young, 2005; Keegan, 1986; Moore, 1989; Palloff & Pratt, 1999, 2003; Porter, 1997; Roblyer, 2001; White & Weight, 2000; Williams, Paprock, & Covington, 2004.)(Decision Makers; Leaders; Lifelong Learners; Adaptive; Collaborative; Culturally Sensitive; Empathetic; Knowledgeable; Proactive; and Reflective; NBPTS Propositions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ISTE/NETS-T F-II.D.)
8. plan strategies to manage student learning in a distance education environment (Ashby, 2002; Downs & Moller, 1999; Huett, Moller, & Young, 2005; Huett, Moller, & Mortensen, 2005; Moore & Anderson, 2003; Moore & Kearsley, 2005; Keegan, 1986; Keller & Suzuki, 2004; Moore, 1989; Schweizer, 1999; Sharp & Huett, 2006; Song, 2000; Weiss, Knowlton, & Speck, 2000; White & Weight, 2000; Williams, Paprock, & Covington, 2004). (Decision Makers; Leaders; Lifelong Learners; Adaptive; Collaborative; Culturally Sensitive; Empathetic; Knowledgeable; Proactive; and Reflective; NBPTS Propositions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ISTE/NETS-T F-II.E.)
9. apply multiple methods of evaluation to determine appropriate use of distance education systems (Hanna, Glowacki-Dudka, & Conceicao-Runlee, 2000; Huett, Moller, & Mortensen, 2005; Moore & Anderson, 2003; Moore & Kearsley, 2005; Roblyer, 2001; Schweizer, 1999; Weiss, Knowlton, & Speck, 2000; White & Weight, 2000; Williams, Paprock, & Covington, 2004). (Decision Makers; Leaders; Lifelong Learners; Adaptive; Collaborative; Culturally Sensitive; Empathetic; Knowledgeable; Proactive; and Reflective; NBPTS Propositions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; ISTE/NETS-T F-IV.C.)

TEXTS, READINGS, AND INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Required Text:

There is no required text for this class. Readings will be provided in *CourseDen*.

References

Ashby, C. (2002). Growth in distance education programs and implications for federal education policy. *Testimony before The United States General Accounting Office*. Retrieved February 2, 2007, from <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d021125t.pdf>

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- Cyrs, T. E. (Ed.). (1997). *Teaching and learning at a distance: What it takes to effectively design, deliver, and evaluate Programs*. New York, NY: Jossey-Bass.
- Diamond, R. M. (1998). *Designing and assessing courses and curricula: A practical guide* (2nd ed.). San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
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- Hanna, D.E., Glowacki-Dudka, M., & Conceicao-Runlee, S. (2000). *147 practical tips for teaching online groups: Essentials of web-based education*. Madison, WI: Atwood Publishing.
- Huba, M.E., & Freed, J.E. (2000). *Learner-centered assessment on college campuses: Shifting the focus from teaching to learning*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
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- Kember, D., Lai, T., Murphy, D., Siaw, I., & Yuen, K. (1994). Student progress in distance education courses: A replication study. *Adult Education Quarterly, 45*(1), 286-301.
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- Palloff, R.M., & Pratt, K. (1999). *Building learning communities in cyberspace: Effective strategies for the online classroom*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
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- Schweizer, H. (1999). *Designing and teaching an on-line course: Spinning your web classroom*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
- Simonson, M., Smaldino, S., Albright, M., & Zvacek, S. (2006). *Teaching and learning at a distance: Foundations of distance education* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.
- Song, S. H. (2000). Research issues of motivation in web-based instruction. *Quarterly Review of Distance Education, 1*(3), 225-229.
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- Visser, L. (1998). *The development of motivational communication in distance education support*. Den Haag: CIP- Gegevens Koninklijke Bibliotheek.

ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS, EVALUATION PROCEDURES, AND GRADING POLICY

Link to Conceptual Framework

The focus of this course is on a general introduction to many conceptual, theoretical, and practical concepts concerning distance education. In addition to distance education theory, students will create a distance education instructional design plan, use the plan to build a distance learning module, and conduct research on current distance education topics and/or design an interactive tutorial for the distant classroom. The overall evaluation for this course is structured on completing individual readings as well as the quizzes and assignments detailed below. Due to the broad nature of the course, each conceptual framework descriptor is covered in the various course assignments. As students complete their assignments, they will have demonstrated achievement in the areas of *decision making*: selecting topic areas in the student's field of study to design and develop an online learning module and interactive tutorial (**course activities 1.0, 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4b**); *leadership*: enhancing his/her knowledge and skills in distance education in order to integrate technology more extensively on the job, at a distance, and to assist others as needed (**course activities 1.0, 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4a-c**); *lifelong learning*: studying how to integrate technology into the work place and distant environment (**course course activities 1.0, 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4a-c**); *being adaptive*: changing educational practices to meet the needs of distance learners (**course activities 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4a-c**); *collaboration*: working with colleagues and stakeholders to plan and carry out school improvements in technology (**course activities 1.0, 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4a-c**); *cultural sensitivity*: adapting interventions and technology innovations to meet the needs of diverse distance learners (**course activities 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4a-c**); *empathy*: demonstrating sensitivity to the needs of individual, family, and community needs (**course activities 1.0, 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4a-c**); *knowledge*: drawing on pedagogical, content, and professional knowledge, including knowledge from others' postings in the online bulletin board when developing distance education systems(**course activities 1.0, 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4a-c**); *being proactive*: implementing new interventions and innovations in technology to better serve distance learners (**course activities 1.0, 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4a-c**) and *reflection*: engaging in ongoing, continuous reflection related to technology to determine the effectiveness of interventions/innovations and school changes that are needed to more effectively integrate technology into the curriculum both local and distant (**course activities 1.0, 2.1-2.2, 3.1-3.4a-c**).

Activities:

Class Participation

This course lives or dies by YOUR participation and participation is just expected. Lack of participation, failure to complete work or discussions in a timely manner, or other noted absence of participation may lower a student's cumulative point total by **20 points**. You will find a discussion forum named "Course questions" in *D2L*. This forum will serve to post all your inquiries related to the class, as well as a channel to communicate course related announcements. Check it often!

Online Discussions (20 points)

One of the most important aspects of this course are the discussion forums, and this course lives or dies with your participation. Those discussions are an informal way for you and your peers to communicate and engage in meaningful conversations related to the course. Be aware that for the discussions where you are not required to reply to other postings, you can wait until Sunday to post your thoughts; however, for those discussions where you are required to reply to your peers, you are expected to make an **initial posting on or before Wednesday** of the week the discussion posting is first available and follow up with remaining postings and replies during the week (Check your course schedule!). **Fifty percent of the discussion's grade will be deducted if you don't follow this schedule.** In previous semesters, I have had students posting everything the day, or the hour before the deadline. This is not acceptable and does not contribute to build a meaningful discussion.

Imagine a room full of people engaging in conversation. Then, they move to the next room and at that moment you decide to start voicing your opinions about the topic. No one will be there to hear you, and what you have to say becomes meaningless even if you think is very thoughtful. **It is exactly the same with online discussions.** This is why, without exceptions, **late discussion board postings/replies will result in a grade of zero.**

You are expected to read and participate in ALL online discussions. **Missing one discussion can be the difference between an A and a B grade.** You are required to post your initial thoughts and respond to AT LEAST two other postings in order for a discussion to be considered complete. **You have to respond to the postings in a meaningful manner** ("I agree" or "this is interesting" are not proper responses). Video posting of discussion responses is encouraged. A reflective response includes new information, personal perspectives, or other input that shows thought and consideration of the issue. It goes beyond simple agreement with or endorsement of responses that have already been posted. (Course Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4; Teacher Observation D2L *CourseDen* DB postings, online discussions)

Note that I may add/delete discussions in addition to the ones listed in the syllabus and class schedule. If this is the case, you will be promptly notified of this addition. It is for this reason that your grade for discussions will be tallied and added at the end of the semester. You will receive grades to your discussions during the semester, but be advised that the values might change if discussions are added/deleted.

Student Work

All student work submitted during the course is required to be original. All projects must be completed to be graded. It is strongly recommended that you begin work on ALL of the projects as soon as they are made available and where you can work ahead. Do not rely solely on the suggested schedule to tell you when to start and finish these projects. Please work early and often!

Due Dates

All products/assignments/discussions will be due on the due dates posted. Do not fall behind in the class. Late assignments will not be accepted and will be assigned a score of **zero**. Missed assignments may be made up only in the event of emergencies. It is my intention to follow the calendar, but I

might change the course outline as necessary to ensure adequate student progress. You should expect feedback and a grade to be posted within 7 days of assignment deadline. If you do not see a grade, please contact me by email ASAP because this may indicate I did not receive the assignment. If you know you will have any issues submitting any of your assignments on time, contact me **PRIOR** to the deadline to make possible arrangements. I know sometimes real life situations happen, and can affect your class performance, that is why I insist if you have any issue, to contact me as soon as possible so we can make arrangements.

Assignments:

Project 1: Online Course review (15 points)

Please familiarize yourself with the requirements/guidelines for this assignment. Your grade for the project will be based on completing specific readings, discussions, review instruments, virtual meetings, and other requirements as outlined in *CourseDen*. Participation in this project constitutes a medium portion of your grade.

Project 2: Distance Education Instructional Design Plan (30 points)

You will create an instructional design plan for one online course concerning the topic of your choosing. The course is to consist of at least one week of instruction, to be delivered entirely online, and to address five major components: module design, interactivity and collaboration, use of technology, assessment, and learner support. Additional guidelines for this assignment are posted in *D2L CourseDen* (Course Objectives 1, 3, 4, 7, 8; rubric).

Project 3: Hands-on Creation of Learning course in *Canvas* (<http://www.instructure.com/>) (35 Points: 30 for the creation and 5 for the revision)

You will create an online course in *Canvas* or any other LMS of your choosing (I will have to approve the tool) following the design plan developed for Project 2. Upon completion of the course, you will also review *at least* one other student's course, complete the work in the course (where appropriate), and offer suggestions for improving the content. You will post a review in the appropriate forum in *D2L CourseDen* (Course Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; rubric).

If you desire, you may work in pairs for the design and development components of **projects 2 and 3** (the review aspect of project 3 must be completed individually). If you choose to do this, you must inform me beforehand, and you may be required to complete a confidential analysis of each group member's level of participation.

Evaluation Procedures

Students are evaluated in the following areas:

Activity	Total Points	Type of Assessment	Due Dates/Location See <i>CourseDen</i> and class schedule
Class Participation and Course Discussions	20	Teacher Observations	Ongoing

Project 1: Analysis of Online course	15	checklist	At 11:59 PM
Project 2: Instructional Design Plan	30	Rubric	at 11:59 PM
Project 3: <i>Canvas</i> Learning Module and revision of module	30 + 5	Rubric	at 11:59 PM
Total points:	100		

GRADING SCALE:

- A = 100 - 91 Points
 B = 90 - 81 Points
 C = 80 - 71 Points
 F = Below 70 Points

COURSE SCHEDULE

You can access the course schedule that is posted in the “Start here” module in CourseDen. Please download it for your easy access. Use it as a guide of what is due and when. Remember that this course schedule may change given unpredictable circumstances beyond your professor's control.

CLASS, DEPARTMENT, AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. Submitting Assignments

You are expected to submit assignments on time. All components must be completed to receive a grade. In most cases, projects are graded as a complete whole and partial credit is not awarded. Valid reasons for submitting work late must be cleared by the professor **in advance**. It is your responsibility to contact me when extenuating circumstances take place. Ten percent of the total grade might be deducted for **each day** an assignment is late up to 50%.

Without exceptions, late discussion board postings/replies will result in a grade of zero. All CourseDen assignments are due by midnight on the date due. Any assignments posted after midnight are considered late. Each assignment in *D2L CourseDen* has a **due date** and a **cut-off** date. The cut-off date is five days after the due date. For instance, if an assignment is due October 22nd, the final cut-off date is October 27th. After October 22nd, the assignment is “late.” After October 27th, the assignment is GONE. No assignments more than 5 days late will be accepted.

2. Professionalism

You are expected to conduct yourself professionally. This is an essential quality for all professionals who will be working in the schools. You are expected to display a positive attitude. Professionalism includes but is not limited to the following:

- Participating in interactions and class activities in a positive manner.
- Collaborating and working equitably with students in the class.
- Actively participating in class each week.
- Turning in assignments on time.
- Treating class members, professor, and colleagues with respect in and out of the classroom.

Students who display a lack of professionalism will be contacted by the instructor immediately when violations take place and informed of the consequences. If there is a second violation the student will meet with a departmental committee and may be dismissed from the program for at least one year.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All work completed in this course must be original work developed this semester. Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism occurs when a student uses or purchases ghostwritten papers. It also occurs when a student utilizes ideas or information obtained from another person without giving credit to that person. If plagiarism or another act of academic dishonesty occurs, it will be dealt with in accordance with the academic misconduct policy as stated in the latest *Connection and Student Handbook* and the *Graduate Catalog*.

Disciplinary procedures described in the latest University of West Georgia Connection and Student Handbook will be followed when violations take place. Infractions may include cheating, plagiarism, disruptive behavior, and disorderly conduct.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

All students are provided with equal access to classes and materials, regardless of special needs, temporary or permanent disability, special needs related to pregnancy, etc. If you have any special learning needs, particularly (but not limited to) needs defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and require specific accommodations, please do not hesitate to make those known, either yourself or through the Coordinator of Disability Services. Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. For more information, please contact Disability Services at the University of West Georgia:

http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php. Any student with a disability documented through Student Services is encouraged to contact the instructor right away so that appropriate accommodations may be arranged. In addition, certain accommodations (which will be discussed in class) are available to all students, within constraints of time and space.

STUDENT EMAIL POLICY

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG email account, which is the official means of communication between the University and student. It is the student's responsibility to check this email account for important University related information.

EXTRA CREDIT STATEMENT

Extra credit activities will not be made.

DUAL SUBMISSION STATEMENT

Coursework that has been completed or will be completed in another course that duplicates or dovetails with an assignment in this course may not be submitted unless prior approval is granted by the instructor. If you foresee this possibility, contact the instructor as soon as possible to request approval for dual submission.