

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
Undergraduate Minor in Educational Studies

EDIT 413
Technology and the Culture of Learning
Spring Semester

PROFESSOR(S):

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisites – EDUC 300 – The Teaching Profession

Course description from the university catalog - Explores the relationship between technological change and education reform initiatives. Includes examination of the relationship between human inventions and social, political, cultural, and epistemological constructions, the history of technology, the relationship between technology and human behavior, and theories of social change and technology. Emphasis will be placed on the ways in which technological and social changes influence and shape the goals and outcomes of the K-12 educational process.

NATURE OF COURSE DELIVERY

The course is structured around readings, reflections on those readings, class projects, on-line discussions, and classroom activities. Using this collection of activities, the methodology of the course seeks to build clear bridges between technology know how, theoretical/research perspectives, and classroom practice.

LEARNER OUTCOMES

The following objectives have been established for the course and are governed by the ISTE NETS standards for Educational Computing and Technology Facilitation:

1. Students will develop an understanding of technology impacts on social contexts through explorations of the history of technology, the role of technology in change, the social and psychological impacts of technology, technology integration as it impacts diverse cultures, and the implications of current changes for education; **VI-A, VI-B, VI-C, VI-D, VI-E,**
2. Students will develop an understanding of technology impacts on knowledge forms through examination of the psychological and epistemological

influences of technology on the nature of knowledge - on what we know and how we know it - by inquiring about the structure and implications of the various discourse arenas created by the electronic technologies; **II-A, II-B, II-C, II-D, II-E, II-F, III-A, III-B, III-C, III-D, III-E**

3. Students will develop an understanding of technology impacts on educational goals through the reassessment of traditional educational goals, rethinking what is to be learned, how it is to be learned, who the learner is, the nature of each learner's cultural experiences, and how learning might be assessed. **II-A, II-B, II-C, II-D, II-E, II-F, III-A, III-B, III-C, III-D, III-E, IV-A, IV-B, IV-C**
4. Students will develop an understanding of the linkages between technology and educational reform, the ways in which technology is associated with the educational reform movement, and the ways in which educators can take leadership roles in facilitating the intersection of educational reform and technology. **II-A, II-B, II-C, II-D, II-E, II-F, III-A, III-B, III-C, III-D, III-E,**

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS: (e.g., INTASC, Professional Organization)

II. Planning and Designing Learning Environments and Experiences: Teachers plan and design effective learning environments and experiences supported by technology.

Teachers:

- A. design developmentally appropriate learning opportunities that apply technology-enhanced instructional strategies to support the diverse needs of learners.
- B. apply current research on teaching and learning with technology when planning learning environments and experiences.
- C. identify and locate technology resources and evaluate them for accuracy and suitability.
- D. plan for the management of technology resources within the context of learning activities.
- F. plan strategies to manage student learning in a technology-enhanced environment.

III. Teaching, Learning, and the Curriculum: Teachers implement curriculum plans that include methods and strategies for applying technology to maximize student learning.

Teachers:

- A. facilitate technology-enhanced experiences that address content standards and student technology standards.
- B. use technology to support learner-centered strategies that address the diverse needs of students.
- C. apply technology to develop students' higher order skills and creativity.

D. manage student learning activities in a technology-enhanced environment.

VI. Social, Ethical, Legal, and Human Issues: Teachers understand the social, ethical, legal, and human issues surrounding the use of technology in PK-12 schools and apply those principles in practice. Teachers:

- A. model and teach legal and ethical practice related to technology use.
- B. apply technology resources to enable and empower learners with diverse backgrounds, characteristics, and abilities.
- C. identify and use technology resources that affirm diversity
- D. promote safe and healthy use of technology resources.
- E. facilitate equitable access to technology resources for all students.

REQUIRED TEXTS

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| Abner Peddiwell | The Saber-Tooth Curriculum | 0070491518 |
| Tom Standage | The Victorian Internet | 0425171698 |
| Larry Cuban | Teachers and Machines | 080772792X |
| Daniel Pink | A Whole New Mind | 9781573223089 |
| Don Tapscott | Grown Up Digital | 0465005152 |
| Marc Prensky | Don't Bother Me Mom. I'm Learning | 1557788588 |
| Orson Scott Card | Ender's Game | 0812550706 |
| S. Johnson | Everything Bad is Good for You | 1594481946 |
| Alan Collins | Rethinking Education in an Age of Technology | 0807750034 |
| Collected Xerox readings | | |

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Requirements –

1. Attendance in class is mandatory, as discussions, lectures, and hands-on activities are important parts of the course.
2. Each student is expected to complete all readings and participate in all on-line discussions.
3. Each student is expected to participate in and complete all classroom projects.
4. Students who must miss a class are responsible for notifying the instructor (preferably in advance) and for completing any assignments, readings, etc. before the start of the next class.
5. All written assignments must be completed on a word processor. Assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the date due. Late assignments will not be accepted without making prior arrangements with the instructor.

Performance-based assessments

1. Reflections (45 points): Students will write brief reflections for each reading assignment to demonstrate what they have learned related to technology and the culture of schools from the assigned readings. Reflections are due at the beginning of each class prior to discussion of the reading assignment. The instructor will provide a prompt to guide students in the reflection process; **Performance-based outcome for course objectives 1, 2, 3, & 4.**
2. A Video Essay (10 points): In groups, students will learn and use the video production process to develop and produce a video essay that persuasively articulates the importance of technology tools in education. **Performance-based outcome for course objectives 1, 2, 3, & 4.**
3. An Intellectual Theme Park (10 points): Using classroom experiences and assigned readings, students will divide into groups of four and prepare an intellectual theme park modeled after theme parks like Disney World and Epcot Center. In these intellectual theme parks, students will invent exhibits/rides that reflect what others might learn if they visited this exhibit. Each exhibit/ride will be presented as both visual and written descriptions. **Performance-based outcome for course objectives 1, 2, 3, & 4.**
4. Short Story (20 Points): Students will participate in classroom discussions of short stories and explorations concerning the structure of stories. Using this knowledge and knowledge about technology's impacts on social and educational systems, student will write a short story reflecting their image of education in the future. **Performance-based outcome for course objectives 1, 2, 3, & 4.**
5. Class Participation (15 points): The class depends heavily on class participation and completion of in class activities. Points will be awarded for participation and completion of these activities. Sample activities will be included in the portfolio.

Criteria for evaluation

High quality work is expected on all assignments and in class. Points for all graded assignments will be based on the scope, quality, and creativity of the assignments. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted without making arrangements with the instructor.

Points will be assigned to all graded assignments using a rubric process. Both class participants and the course instructor will be involved in assessment of graded assignments. Prior to the due date for any assignment, the class will participate in the development of an assessment rubric. This rubric will result from a discussion of applicable course objectives and an elaboration of qualities and components associated with excellence in completion of the assignment.

When assignments are presented on the designated due date, class participants and the instructor will complete an assessment of the assignment using the rubric created in class. Class participants' ratings on the rubric will be averaged. Then the class participants' average will be averaged with the instructor's ratings on the rubric to

compute a final point value for assignments. In this way, the development of the rubric will inform the final completion of the assignments as well as serve as the instrument for assessment and determination of points awarded.

Short Story Rubric

| | Present | Needs Improvement | Missing |
|---|---------|-------------------|---------|
| (score weight) | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Quality of Presentation | | | |
| Clear, concise writing (0.25) | | | |
| Edited; Spelling and Grammar checked (0.25) | | | |
| Story Elements | | | |
| 1. Title (0.25) | | | |
| 2. Main Character(s) (1) | | | |
| 3. Supporting Character(s) (0.5) | | | |
| 4. Setting (1) | | | |
| 5. Problem/Challenge/Conflict (1) | | | |
| 6. Climax (0.5) | | | |
| 7. Resolution (1) | | | |
| 8. Plot/order of events (0.25) | | | |
| 9. Clear theme(s) (1) | | | |
| Knowledge of Course Themes | | | |
| 1. How Technology impacts society (1) | | | |
| 2. How Technology impacts learning (1) | | | |
| 3. How Technology impacts education systems (1) | | | |
| Total score: /20 points | | | |
| Comments | | | |

Grading scale

| Grade | Point Range |
|-------|-------------|
| A | 95-100 |
| A- | 90-94 |
| B+ | 87-89 |
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 74-76 |
| C- | 70-73 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | < 60 |

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Student Expectations

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See [http:// oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/](http://oai.gmu.edu/honor-code/)].
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu/>].
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
- Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.
- Core Values Commitment
The College of Education & Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles. <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>

Campus Resources

- The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu/>].

- The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>]
- For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, Graduate School of Education, please visit our website [See <http://gse.gmu.edu>]

Schedule of Activities and Assignments

Week 1

- Overview of Class
- James Burke's *A Matter of Fact*- 1st half
- *All Summer in a Day* – copied story

Week 2

- *The Saber Tooth Curriculum* Reflection due
- Discussion and Activity: *The Saber Tooth Curriculum*
- James Burke's *A Matter of Fact*- 2nd half

Week 3

- *The Victorian Internet* Reflection due
- Discussion and Activity: *The Victorian Internet*
- *The Trigger Effect*

Week 4

- *Teachers and Machines* Reflection due
- Discussion and Activity: *Teachers and Machines*
- *The Murderer* –copied story

Week 5

- First half- *A Whole New Mind* Reflection due
- Discussion and Activity: *A Whole New Mind*- 1st half

Week 6

- Second Half- *A Whole New Mind* Reflection due
- Discussion and Activity: *A Whole New Mind* – 2nd half

Week 7

- First Half- *Grown Up Digital* Reflection due
- Game Night

Week 8

- Second Half- *Grown Up Digital* Reflection due
- Discussion and Activity: *Grown Up Digital*

Week 9

- *Ender's Game* Reflection due
- Discussion: *Ender's Game*
- Brainstorming for Short Story

Week 10

- *Don't Bother Me Mom, I'm Learning* Reflection due
- Discussion: *Don't Bother Me Mom, I'm Learning*
- Begin Video Production Process

Week 11

- First Half- *Everything Bad is Good for You* Reflection due
- Discussion: *Everything Bad is Good for You*
- Continue Video Production Process

Week 12

- Second Half- *Everything Bad is Good for You* Reflection due
- Discussion: *Everything Bad is Good for You*
- Continue Video Production Process

Week 13

- First half- *Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology* Reflection due
- Discussion: *Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology*- 1st half
- Finish Video Production Process

Week 14

- Second half- *Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology* Reflection due
- Discussion and Activity: *Rethinking Education in the Age of Technology*- 2nd half
- Introduction to Intellectual Theme Park

Week 15

- Intellectual Theme Park- production time

Week 16

- Intellectual Theme Park- assembly time, final presentations, assessment
- Short Story due
- Course Evaluation