



**Advanced Instructional Design**  
**EDIT 730 – 6T1 - 3 credits (pre-requisite EDIT 705)**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Fall 2016**

### General Information

**Time:** Tuesdays, 4:30 PM – 7:10 PM

**Location:** Management Concepts, Tysons Corner

**Instructor:** Dr. Nada Dabbagh

**Phone:** (703) 993-4439

**Division of Learning Technologies**

**IDT Program:** <http://learntech.gmu.edu/idt/>

**Office:** Thompson Hall, L047 (office hours by appointment)

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### Course Description

**Catalog Description:** Provides students with the knowledge and skills for designing highly contextualized and engaging problem-solving learning environments using a grounded, theory-based design approach. Emphasizes the design of technology supported learning environments using a variety of pedagogical models.

**Expanded Description:** Provides students with the knowledge and skills for designing highly contextualized and engaging problem-solving learning environments (PSLEs) based on the principles of constructivism, situated cognition, and distributed learning. Readings expose students to a range of epistemological and theoretical perspectives as evidenced by instructional design literature and applications. The focus is on **grounded or theory-based design**, which differs from the systematic process of instructional design as discussed in EDIT 705 (e.g., ADDIE). However, the principles of systematic instructional design are fundamental to understanding and implementing this design approach. The course also emphasizes the design of online or technology supported learning environments (TSLEs) using a variety of pedagogical models.

**Pre-requisites:** EDIT 705; students are expected to be proficient in the principles and processes of instructional design (e.g., performing task and audience analysis, writing learning outcomes or instructional objectives, and aligning learning outcomes with taxonomies for identifying learning domains and assessment).

**Course Delivery Method:** The course will be conducted through a mixture of lecture, in-class discussions and activities, online discussions, and individual and collaborative activities including a final design project.

### Learner Outcomes or Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of epistemological approaches to learning and cognition such as **objectivism, behaviorism, cognitivism, constructivism, distributed cognition, and connectivism**.
2. Develop an understanding of **grounded design or theory-based design**.
3. Develop an **applied** understanding of **constructivism** and its implications for designing problem-solving learning environments (PSLEs).
4. Examine alternative constructivist-based **pedagogical models** and their implications for the design of PSLEs and TSLEs.
5. Appreciate the importance of the linkage between theories of learning and instructional design practice.

### Professional Standards

The learning outcomes for this course align with the 2012 International Board of Standards for Training, Performance and Instruction (IBSTPI) competencies of *Professional Foundations* and *Design and Development* as follows ([see http://www.ibstpi.org/instructional-design-competencies/](http://www.ibstpi.org/instructional-design-competencies/)):

- Apply research and theory to the discipline of instructional design (Advanced)
- Update and improve knowledge, skills, and attitudes pertaining to the instructional design process (Essential)
- Use an instructional design and development process appropriate for a given project (Essential)
- Design instructional interventions (Essential)
- Select or modify existing instructional materials (Essential)
- Develop instructional materials (Essential)
- Design learning assessment (Advanced)

## Required Texts

Jonassen, D.H. (2011). *Learning to solve problems: A handbook for designing problem-solving learning environments*. New York, N.Y.: Routledge, Taylor & Francis.

Additional readings are provided on Blackboard or as handouts in class. The Blackboard course website will have a variety of **instructional resources organized according to the learning modules in the timeline below and should be explored with each module**. To access Blackboard, go to [mymason.gmu.edu](http://mymason.gmu.edu)

## Learning Activities, Performance Based Assessments, and Grading Policy

*Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, TK20, etc.)*

### **CLE (Constructivist Learning Environment) Criteria and Application** **25% of grade**

In groups, students will (a) identify theoretical principles and instructional characteristics of Constructivist Learning Environments (CLEs) based on the readings and additional reliable resources, (b) contrast these to the theoretical principles and instructional characteristics of Objectivist or Behaviorist Learning Environments (OLEs), (c) find and share an example of a CLE that is technology supported and subscribes to the CLE principles and characteristics identified, and (d) critique the extent to which the selected CLE example embodies the principles of constructivism. The end product for this assignment is a 20-25 minute in-class presentation that describes the findings of the group with respect to these items. More detail is provided on the course website under assignments.

### **Online and In-Class Participation** **20% of grade**

The course includes online and in-class discussions and activities. Online activities include the use of blogs, vlogs, or discussion forums (10%) designed to help you articulate your understanding of the readings, share multiple perspectives and provide constructive peer feedback. In-class activities (10%) include group work and whole group discussions. *Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to discuss the readings*. Rubrics for evaluating class participation are provided on the course website under assignments. **On time class attendance is critical to successful class participation.**

### **Research Brief** **25% of grade**

Each student will select a constructivist based pedagogical model (e.g., cognitive apprenticeship, community of practice, situated learning, problem based learning) OR an instructional strategy (e.g., collaboration, articulation, scaffolding, problem solving), OR a problem type (e.g., strategy problem, decision-making problem, design problem, dilemma) and write a **research brief** based on the *5 Things You Need to Know About*: (1) What is it? (2) How does it work? (3) Who is doing it? (4) How effective is it? (5) What are its implications for instructional design? References should include course readings as well as new empirical research related to the selected model or strategy. More detail is provided on the course website under assignments.

### **Designing a Constructivist Learning Environment (CLE)** **30% of grade**

In groups of two, students will select a pedagogical model from *Chapter 5 of the Online Learning Text* (see also list under assignments/final project) and will apply a **grounded design approach** to develop a **prototype of the CLE/PSLE** for a specific target audience and learning content. **This is a Performance Based Assessment (rubric provided at end of syllabus).**

The final deliverable for this assignment should include the following **three** components:

1. A proposal (design document) describing the parameters of the CLE/PSLE including the pedagogical model selected; the learning problem (authentic context) or challenge that will engage the target audience; the learning outcomes; characteristics of the target audience; the learning activities; and the assessment approach.
2. A table depicting the grounded design of the CLE/PSLE. The table is a blueprint or storyboard of the prototype and should illustrate the mapping or alignment of four design elements: (1) learning outcomes, (2) instructional strategies (derived from the instructional characteristics of the pedagogical model selected), (3) learning activities or tasks (what the learners will do), and (4) assessment criteria.
3. A prototype of the CLE/PSLE showing the **learning activities** that the learners will engage in. The prototype can be developed in PPT or a technology of your choice (e.g., wiki, LMS, website, Adobe Captivate, etc.).

**Grades are based on the successful completion of course requirements and on the scope, quality and creativity of the assignments. To get an A in this course, students should demonstrate critical thinking skills through active synthesis of reading material, integration of prior knowledge and experience, and through problem-solving, argumentation, and reasoning.**

**Grade distribution is as follows:** A+ = 97 - 100 (exceeds expectations on all requirements); A = 93 - 96 (meets expectations, excellent performance); A- = 90 - 92 (meets expectations, very good performance), B+ = 86 - 89 (meets most expectations, good performance), B = 83 - 85 (meets most expectations, satisfactory performance); B- = 80 - 82 (meets some expectations, average performance); C = 70 - 79 (notably below expectations).

**The instructor reserves the right to deduct up to 10% of an assignment grade per day for late submissions without a valid excuse. Missing more than 2 classes over the semester can also result in grade reduction.** If you miss class, it is **your responsibility to make up** the work (this includes classwork).

### **Professional Dispositions**

Students are expected to exhibit professional behaviors and dispositions at all times.

### **Core Values Commitment**

The College of Education and 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/>.

## **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESSOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>)
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason 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 with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/api/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://courseessupport.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/>).
- 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 Office of Student Support staff helps students negotiate life situations by connecting them with appropriate campus and off-campus resources. Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone (703-993-5376). Concerned students, faculty and staff may also make a referral to express concern for the safety or well-being of a Mason student or the community by going to <http://studentsupport.gmu.edu/>, and the OSS staff will follow up with the student.

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/>.**

<b>Class Schedule</b>	<i>(Faculty reserve the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students)</i>
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### **Module 1: Learning Paradigms and Instructional Design**

***Tuesday September 6 (week 1)***

*f2f class*

- Course intro
- In-class icebreaker activity
- General discussion on learning theories and epistemologies
- Post bios to Blackboard “Meet & Greet” forum
- Post a brief summary of a learning or training design problem that you have recently encountered or solved to Blackboard “Learning Design Problems” forum

**Readings/activities to be completed by Tuesday September 13**

- Ertmer & Newby (2013). Behaviorism, cognitivism, constructivism: Comparing critical features from an instructional design perspective (Bb)
- Jonassen (1991). Objectivism versus constructivism: Do we need a new philosophical paradigm? (Bb)
- Siemens (2005). Connectivism: A learning theory for the digital age (Bb)
- Provide comments on the “Meet and Greet” and “Learning Design Problems” forums as appropriate
- Explore online resources under Module 1
- Come prepared to share your *objectivism-cognitivism-constructivism-connectivism* comparison table

***Tuesday September 13 (week 2)***

**ASSIGN TEAMS FOR CLE ASSIGNMENT**

*f2f class*

- Discuss readings/resources, develop epistemology comparison table

### **Module 2: Situated Learning, Cognitive Apprenticeship, Communities of Practice**

**Readings/resources to be completed/explored by Tuesday September 20**

- Herrington, Reeves, & Oliver (2014). Authentic Learning Environments (Bb)
- Collins (2006). Cognitive apprenticeship (Bb)
- Explore online resources under Module 2

***Tuesday September 20 (week 3)***

*f2f class*

- Discuss readings/resources, complete related learning activities

**Readings/resources to be completed/explored by Tuesday September 22**

- Communities of Practice: A brief introduction by Etienne Wenger (Bb)
- CoP Primer (Bb)
- Explore online resources under Module 2

***Tuesday September 27 (week 4)***

*online class*

- Discuss readings/resources online, complete related learning activities
- Work on the CLE assignment

***Tuesday October 4 (week 5)***

**CLE PRESENTATIONS**

*f2f class*

***Tuesday October 11 (week 6)***

**COLUMBUS DAY RECESS**

*no class*

### **Module 3: Instructional Design for Constructivist Learning Environments (CLE)/PSLEs**

**Readings/resources to be completed/explored by Tuesday October 18**

- Chapters 5 & 6 (Online Learning text) (Bb)
- Explore online resources under Module 3

***Tuesday October 18 (week 7)***

**SELECT TOPIC FOR RESEARCH BRIEF**

*f2f class*

- Discuss readings/resources, complete related learning activities

**Readings/resources to be completed/explored by Tuesday October 25**

- Chapters 1, 8, & 10 (Learning to Solve Problems text)
- Explore online resources under Module 3

<b>Tuesday October 25 (week 8)</b>		<i>f2f class</i>
➤ Discuss readings/resources, complete related learning activities		
<u>Readings/resources to be completed/explored by Tuesday November 1</u>		
➤ Dabbagh & Dass (2013). Case problems for problem-based pedagogical approaches (Bb)		
<b>Tuesday November 1 (week 9)</b>		<i>online class</i>
➤ Discuss readings/resources online, complete related class activities		
➤ Work on the research brief		
<u>Readings/resources to be completed/explored by Tuesday November 8</u>		
➤ Chapters 7 & 22 (Learning to Solve Problems text)		
➤ Chapter 7 (Online Learning text) (Bb)		
<b>Tuesday November 8 (week 10)</b>		<i>f2f class</i>
➤ Discuss readings/resources, complete related learning activities		
<b><u>Module 4: Case-Based Learning, Goal-Based Scenarios</u></b>		
<u>Readings/resources to be completed/explored by Tuesday November 15</u>		
➤ Chapter 12 & 13 (Learning to Solve Problems text)		
➤ Hsu & Moore (2011). Formative research on the goal-based scenario model (Bb)		
➤ Explore online resources under Module 4		
<b>Tuesday November 15 (week 11)</b>	<b>RESEARCH BRIEF DUE</b>	<i>online class</i>
➤ Discuss readings/resources online, complete related learning activities		
<b><u>Module 5: Problem-Based Learning</u></b>		
<u>Readings/resources to be completed/explored by Tuesday November 22</u>		
➤ Newman (2005). Problem Based Learning: An Introduction and Overview (Bb)		
➤ Dabbagh et al. paper on PBL (Bb)		
➤ Explore online resources under Module 5		
<b>Tuesday November 22 (week 12)</b>		<i>f2f class</i>
➤ Discuss readings/resources online, complete related learning activities		
<b><u>Module 6: Games &amp; Simulations</u></b>		
<u>Readings/resources to be completed/explored by Tuesday November 29</u>		
➤ Barab, Gresalfi, Ingram-Goble (2010) – Transformational Play (Bb)		
➤ Prensky (2001) – Simulations: Are They Games (Bb)		
➤ Chapter 14 (Learning to Solve Problems text)		
➤ Explore online resources under Module 6		
<b>Tuesday November 29 (week 13)</b>		<i>f2f class</i>
➤ Discuss readings/resources, complete related learning activities		
<b>Tuesday December 6 (week 14)</b>	<b>FINAL PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE</b>	<i>f2f class</i>
➤ Guest speakers		
➤ Class synthesis		
<b>Tuesday December 13 (week 15)</b>	<b>WORK ON FINAL PROJECT</b>	<i>no class</i>
<b>Tuesday December 20 (week 16)</b>	<b>FINAL PROJECT DUE</b>	<i>f2f class</i>

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<b>Assessment Rubric</b>
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**Rubric for the Performance Based Assessment “Designing a Constructivist Learning Environment (CLE)” (rubrics for the other assignments are available on the course website)**

<b>Components/Criteria</b>	<b>Exceeds Expectations</b>	<b>Meets Expectations</b>	<b>Does Not Meet Expectations</b>
Project Proposal (10 points)	All key elements of the project proposal are included and effectively described; the selection of the pedagogical model is appropriate for the learning problem	Most key elements of the project proposal are included and effectively described OR all key elements are covered but the alignment across the elements is not clear	Key elements of the project proposal are missing OR the elements are not described effectively or do not align with the selected pedagogical model
Design Table (10 points)	All key elements of the design table are included and pedagogically aligned	Most key elements of the design table are included and pedagogically aligned OR all key elements of the design table are included but not pedagogically aligned	Several elements of the design table are missing or not pedagogically aligned
Prototype (10 points)	Prototype uses appropriate technologies to demonstrate all aspects of the design table that are applicable or available to the learner and the facilitator	Most aspects of the design table are demonstrated in the prototype using appropriate technologies OR all aspects of the design table are included but not effectively demonstrated	Several aspects of the design table are missing in the prototype design OR are not demonstrated effectively and consistently