

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
Learning Technologies in Schools**

**EDIT 762 DL1  
Quality K-12 Blended and Online Learning  
1 credits  
Spring 2018  
Online**

**Faculty**

**Name: Dawn Hathaway**  
**Office Hours: By appointment**  
**Office Location: TH L041**  
**Office Phone: 703-993-2019**  
**Cell Phone: 703-862-5966**  
**Email Address: [dhathawa@gmu.edu](mailto:dhathawa@gmu.edu) (preferred method)**

**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

Examines and evaluates quality indicators for the design of blended and online learning pointing to the six major areas for consideration: instructor-learner, learner-learner, learner-content, learner-interface, learner-instructional strategies, and social presence.

**Course Overview**

Not applicable

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using an **asynchronous** format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on January 19 by 7am.

**Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.**

## Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with a standard up-to-date browser, either Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox is required (note: Opera and Safari are not compatible with Blackboard).
- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - Windows Media Player:
    - <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player>
    - Apple Quick Time Player: [www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

## Expectations

- Course Week:  
Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on **Fridays** and finish on **Thursdays**. New Modules will be posted on Thursdays by 7am.
- Log-in Frequency:  
Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 5 times per week.
- Participation:  
Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions. Please refer to participation and collaboration rubrics provided in the course Blackboard site.
- Technical Competence:  
Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues:  
Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload:  
Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- Instructor Support:

Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.

- Netiquette:

The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.

- Accommodations:

Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

## **Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Define quality as it relates to the design of online learning environments,
2. Understand the challenges and issues related to determining the quality of online learning environments,
3. Understand the six dimensions of interaction,
4. Understand elements of design that instantiate each of the six dimensions of interaction,
5. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to align dimensions of interactions and elements of design to a variety of online learning models, and
6. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to assess quality of K-12 online environments.

## **Professional Standards**

This course is aligned with the International Association for K-12 Online Learning's (iNACOL) (2010) *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching*. Standards A.4, A.5, A.6, J.1, and J.2 are covered by the program prerequisite for licensure. The full list and description of standards can be accessed at

[http://www.inacol.org/research/nationalstandards/iNACOL\\_TeachingStandardsv2.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/research/nationalstandards/iNACOL_TeachingStandardsv2.pdf).

Standards aligned with this course are:

Standard A - The online teacher knows the primary concepts and structures of effective online instruction and is able to create learning experiences to enable student success.

(A.1)

Standard B - The online teacher understands and is able to use a range of technologies, both existing and emerging, that effectively support student learning and engagement in the online environment. (B.3, B.4, B.5)

Standard C - The online teacher plans, designs, and incorporates strategies to encourage active learning, application, interaction, participation, and collaboration in the online environment. (C.1, C.6, C.8, C.9)

Standard D - The online teacher promotes student success through clear expectations, prompt responses, and regular feedback. (D.1, D.2, D.4, D.6, D.7, D.8, D.9, D.10)

Standard I - The online teacher demonstrates competency in using data from assessments and other data sources to modify content and to guide student learning. . (I.1, I.2, I.3, I.4, I.5, I.6, I.7, I.8, I.9, I.10, I.11, I.12, I.13)

Standard K - The online teacher arranges media and content to help students and teachers transfer knowledge most effectively in the online environment. (K.1, K.2)

### **Required Texts**

The following are provided online on Blackboard:

1. Thurmond, V., & Wambach, K. (2004). Understanding interactions in distance education: A review of the literature. *International Journal of Instructional Technology and Distance Education*, 1(1). Retrieved from [http://ojni.org/8\\_2/interactions.htm](http://ojni.org/8_2/interactions.htm)
2. International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL). (2011, October). *National standards for quality online courses*. Retrieved from [http://www.inacol.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/iNACOL\\_CourseStandards\\_2011.pdf](http://www.inacol.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/iNACOL_CourseStandards_2011.pdf)
3. U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement (2008) *Evaluating online learning: Challenges and strategies for success*. Washington, DC: WestEd With Edvance Research, Inc. Retrieved from <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/academic/evalonline/evalonline.pdf>
4. Other online resources provided on course Blackboard site.

### **Course Performance Evaluation**

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy)

#### **a. Assignments**

1. Participation (25 points): Students will be evaluated based on their participation in course discussions, group activities, and participation in synchronous meetings. Students are expected to provide articulate responses to weekly discussion board posts and engage with instructor and group members.

2. OLQAL Guidelines (25 points): Students will collaborate with members in their “chapter” throughout the course to create the Online Learning Quality Assurance League’s Annual Guidelines (K-12 version). Guidelines will consist of: definitions of quality and associated terms relevant to K-12 online learning environments, descriptions of the relationship between quality design elements and online learning model, a rubric for judging the quality of K-12 online learning environments, and a quality review of online learning environments currently available to K-12 learners. A template for the Guidelines is provided on the course Web site.
3. Evaluation Report (30 points): Students will individually review examples of online courses and evaluate each using their choice of assessment tool. Students will generate an evaluation report using a template provided on the course Web site and submit their report as part of the OLQAL Guidelines.
4. Electronic Portfolio (20 points): Throughout their program of study, students are required to create and continually revise a professional, online portfolio. This portfolio should not be a collection of what the student has done, but rather a reflection of what they have learned. Templates and assistance will be provided to assist students in the creation and maintenance of this portfolio. All exhibits in the online portfolio will include a short reflection. At the end of this course, a comprehensive, course-wide reflection and supporting samples of work will be added to the portfolio reflecting student learning.

**f. Other Requirements**

1. Participation is mandatory, as discussions, readings and activities are important parts of the course.
2. Each student is expected to complete all readings and participate in all discussions, both face to face and online.
3. Each student is expected to participate in and complete all projects.
4. Students who must miss either online or face to face activities are responsible for notifying the instructor (preferably in advance) and for completing any revised assignments, readings, and activities.
5. All assignments must be completed electronically. Assignments are to be submitted on the date due. Late assignments will not be accepted without making prior arrangements with the instructor.

**g. Course Performance Evaluation Weighting**

Since this is a graduate level course, high quality work is expected on all assignments. Points for all graded assignments will be based on the scope, quality, and creativity of the assignments. All assignments are due on the date stipulated in the Schedule of Activities section below. 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 course participants and the course instructor will be involved in assessment of graded assignments. Prior to the due date for any assignment, the student will

participate in the review and/or development of an assessment rubric. This rubric will provide course objectives and an elaboration of qualities and components associated with excellence in completion of the assignment. See rubric(s) below.

#### **h. Grading Policies**

Requirements	Points
Course Participation <sup>1</sup>	25
OLQAL Guidelines	25
Evaluation Report	30
Electronic Portfolio	20

Grade	Point Range
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	86-89
B	80-85
C	70-79
F	69-below

#### **Professional Dispositions**

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

#### **Class Schedule**

Date	Topic/Learning Activities	Readings & Assignments
Pre-Course Jan 22	Course Orientation	Check masonlive.gmu.edu email Log onto Blackboard system <a href="https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/">https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/</a>

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<sup>1</sup> Course participation is inclusive of both face to face class participation in all discussions and activities as well as the extensive activities and discussions which occur on the course Blackboard site as part of the blended learning format of the course.

Week 1 Jan. 26	<p>What is Quality Online Learning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet the Online Learning Quality Assurance League</li> <li>• Join a local chapter of OLQAL</li> <li>• The Contract</li> <li>• The Glossary</li> <li>• Quality: Issues, Definitions, Dimensions</li> <li>• Begin the Challenge: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Read Web articles on Quality and Interactions</p> <p>-Podcast Series <i>The Online Design Diva</i>:  -----Episode 1: What is Quality Online Learning?  -----Episode 2: Dimensions of Interactions</p> <p>-Add to Online Glossary</p> <p>-Complete and Post Contract</p> <p>-Develop name for local chapter</p> <p>-Complete #1 of OLQAL Guidelines  <b>Work DUE by 11:59pm</b></p> <p>- Participate in chapter online discussions</p>
Week 2 Feb. 2	<p>Quality Elements of Online Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Interactive Web-Based Graphic Organizer</li> <li>• Building an Interactive Model of K- 12 Online Quality</li> <li>• Challenge #2: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Read Web articles on Elements of Online Design</p> <p>-Podcast Series <i>The Online Design Diva</i>:  -----Episode 3: Quality Elements of Interactions</p> <p>-Add to Online Glossary</p> <p>-Complete Web-Based Quality Model</p> <p>-Complete #2 of OLQAL Guidelines  <b>Work DUE Feb. 5 by 11:59pm</b></p> <p>-Participate in chapter online discussions</p>
Week 3 Feb. 9	<p>Models vs Design Considerations for Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does Model Matter?</li> <li>• Comparing Online Models and Design Considerations</li> <li>• Challenge #3: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Read Web articles on Elements of Online Design</p> <p>-Add to Online Glossary</p> <p>-Complete Quality Model for Online Models</p> <p>-Complete #3 of OLQAL Guidelines  <b>Work DUE Feb. 12 by 11:59pm</b></p> <p>-Participate in chapter online discussions</p>
Week 4 Feb. 16	<p>Quality Assessment of Online Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigating Quality Rubrics and National Standards for Quality K-12 Online Learning</li> <li>• Creating a Rubric to Assess K-12 Online Learning</li> <li>• Challenge #4: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Read Web articles on Elements of Online Design</p> <p>-Podcast Series <i>The Online Design Diva</i>:  -----Episode 4: Finding the Right Assessment Tool</p> <p>-Add to Online Glossary</p> <p>-Create and Post Quality Rubric</p> <p>-Complete #4 of OLQAL Guidelines  <b>Work DUE Feb. 19 by 11:59pm</b></p> <p>-Participate in all Online discussions</p>
Week 5 Feb. 23	<p>Online Course Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examining K-12 Online Learning in the Real World</li> <li>• Constructing an Evaluation of Online Courses</li> <li>• Preparing an Evaluation Report</li> <li>• Challenge #5: The Annual OLQAL Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>-Complete Individual Evaluation Reports</p> <p>-Complete #4 of OLQAL Guidelines</p> <p>-Attend League “Meeting”</p> <p>-Complete Portfolio  <b>All Work DUE Feb. 26 by 11:59pm</b></p>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

## **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/>.

## **GMU Policies and Resources for Students**

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/> ).
- 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/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursesupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>. This link includes additional links to a variety of campus resources such as:
  - The Writing Center 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 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 Student Support & Advocacy Center staff helps students develop and maintain healthy lifestyles through confidential one-on-one support as well as through interactive programs and resources. Some of the topics they address are healthy relationships, stress management, nutrition, sexual assault, drug and alcohol use, and sexual health (see <http://ssac.gmu.edu/>). Students in need of these services may contact the office by phone at 703-993-3686. 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://ssac.gmu.edu/make-a-referral/>.

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