

George Mason University
College of Education and Human Development
Blended and Online Learning in Schools

EDIT 765.DL1 – Facilitating K-12 Blended and Online Learning
2 Credits, Fall 2019
Online

Faculty

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Prerequisites/Corequisites

None

University Catalog Course Description

Develops expertise in facilitating and moderating blended and online learning to include synchronous and asynchronous environments, community building strategies, questioning strategies, prompting reflection, and facilitating conceptual understanding.

Course Overview

Not Applicable

Course Delivery Method

This course will be delivered 100% online a format that combines asynchronous and synchronous learning activities via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal as well as other tools. 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 Aug 26th at 9:00am.

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 will need a microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool.
- 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/

Expectations

- Course Week:
Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, our week will start on Monday at 9:00 and finish on Sunday at 11:59pm.
- 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 daily.
- 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 asynchronous and synchronous course discussions and group interactions.
- 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 penalties will not be excused 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 an online one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. 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. Distinguish between asynchronous and synchronous communication in online K12 learning environments,
2. Facilitate K12 online group discussions using a variety of online tools,
3. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to implement online community building strategies in K12 online environments,
4. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to implement online questioning strategies in K12 online environments,
5. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to implement online strategies for reflection in K12 online environments, and
6. Demonstrate knowledge of and ability to implement online strategies to facilitate conceptual understanding in K12 online environments.

Professional Standards

This course is aligned with the International Association for K12 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.

Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

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.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.2, C.3, C.4, C.6, C.8)

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 and Materials

Peddiwell, A. (2004). *The Saber-Tooth Curriculum, Classic Edition*, McGraw-Hill

Boss, S. & Larmer, J. (2018) *Project Based Teaching: How to create rigorous and engaging learning experiences*, ASDC, Alexandria, VA.

In addition to the books above, you will need to rent and view the documentary “Most Likely to Succeed.” It can be [rented and streamed on Amazon](#) for around \$5 or for free with an Amazon Prime membership.

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).

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

Assignment	Point Value
<i>Saber-Tooth Curriculum</i> reading guide	10
<i>Project Based Teaching</i> graphic organizer	20
Synchronous online discussions and meetings	10 (5 each)
Asynchronous discussion board activities	10 (5 each)
Facilitator Handbook	35
Teacher interview summary	15

Saber-Tooth Curriculum Reading Guide: The book is a satire on the U.S. education system's resistance to change and is a perfect way to launch into our study of educational reform. The book is actually an extended allegory. The book was originally published in 1939 but is still relevant today which only reinforces the book's primary premise that not much changes in our education system. As you read you will be recording your thoughts on each chapter using a reading guide.

"Most Likely to Succeed" Reflection and Discussion: While there are many documentaries focused on the educational system in the United States, only a few have successfully started a wide-spread conversation with those in and out of the educational community. *Most Likely to Succeed* was the most recent to do just that. Interestingly it is focused on project based learning (PBL)—one of the topics of this course. As a result we will make the time to (re)watch the documentary with a critical eye. Specifically we will examine the documentary's arguments, the evidence that it uses to support those arguments, and the strength of the warrant that holds the arguments together. Lastly we will attempt to mine the documentary for practical, applicable strategies that you and other teachers can immediately use. I intentionally used the word "mine" because they are not always explicitly stated and it may take some *digging*. We will then share and discuss our thoughts in a discussion board activity.

Project Based Teaching Graphic Organizer and Discussion: We will be reading the book *Project Based Teaching: How to Create Rigorous and Engaging Learning Experiences*. The book is written by PBL leaders for teachers and administrators. As a result, each chapter should contain helpful strategies for creating or improving PBL at our schools and classroom. Using a graphic organizer we will map out and evaluate the arguments in the book. We will then discuss our overall thoughts surrounding the book in a discussion board activity.

Synchronous online discussions and meetings: Throughout the course we will participate in synchronous sessions for collaborative meetings. We will also participate in asynchronous discussion board activities.

Facilitator Handbook: In teams, you will create a handbook for online and blended facilitators. Your handbook will address the following driving question: How can we, as teacher leaders, help other teachers to overcome common obstacles to effective facilitating so that their students are better prepared for the demands of the 21st Century?

- **Grading**

Mastery Learning Approach

In this course we take a mastery learning approach to the assignments. This is how it will work:

- The criteria for completing the assignments will be clearly spelled out.
- The instructor will evaluate your work and provide qualitative feedback on your assignments.
- If you have adequately completed all of the criteria you will receive full credit on the assignment.
- If you have not adequately completed all of the criteria, the assignment will be returned and you will be subject to late points until all of the criteria are complete.
- You must complete ALL assignments to get a passing grade.

Late Work

Students are expected to complete and electronically submit all assignments prior to 11:59 p.m. on the assignment due date. All due dates are listed clearly on syllabus. All assignments can be submitted late but a minimum 10% late penalty will be assessed for work submitted after the assignment deadline unless prior permission has been received. Work that is submitted over a week late will receive an additional 20% penalty for each additional week late. No late work is accepted after the final assignment's due date.

Grading scale

Grade Percentage Range

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C	70-79
F	0-69

Professional Dispositions

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

Class Schedule

Week	Guiding Questions and Topics	Activities and Projects
Weeks 1-2 Aug 26-Sept 8	<p>What are the responsibilities of a modern teacher?</p> <p>What does society need? Is our educational system meeting those needs? If not, how should classrooms and schools be reformed?</p>	<p>Read <i>Saber-tooth Curriculum</i> and complete the reading guide/reflection.</p> <p>Watch <i>Most Likely to Succeed</i> and participate in the discussion board activity.</p>
Weeks 3-4 Sept 9-15	<p>What are practical strategies for creating and facilitating project based learning?</p>	<p>Read <i>Project Based Teaching</i> and complete your graphic organizer.</p> <p>Prepare for and participate in the discussion board activity.</p> <p>Conduct an interview or focus group with at least three teachers, focusing on their challenges when attempting to facilitate meaningful communication and collaboration.</p>
Week 5 Sept 23-29	<p>How can we as teacher leaders, help others to overcome common obstacles to effective learning communication and collaboration so that their students are better prepared for the demands of the 21st Century?</p>	<p>Attend and participate in your group's synchronous online meeting. Be prepared to discuss what you learned from your teacher interviews.</p>
Week 6 Sept 30-Oct 6	<p>What are obstacles that teachers in your currently facing? What are practical strategies for overcoming those obstacles?</p> <p>What should a teacher guide contain to best inform teachers of effective facilitating practices?</p>	<p>Attend and participate in your group's synchronous online meeting.</p> <p>Work collaboratively on your facilitator handbook</p>
Week 7 Oct 7-13	<p>Complete and submit the facilitator handbook</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 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>

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

Assessment Checklists

As explained earlier, the course will use a mastery-based approach to grading. As a result, students will need to complete all of the assignment criteria in order to earn points on the assignment and all assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

Facilitator Handbook

Criteria	Expectation
Introduction	The introduction section effectively hooks teachers into the topic.
Content and Scope	The handbook displays an exceptional or adequate understanding of strategies and best practices for creating and facilitating collaborative activities in ways that prepare students for the demands of the 21 st century.
Writing Style	The handbook is easy to read, the ideas are well formulated, and only contains minor errors.
Layout	Each section follows best design practices resulting in sections that are well organized and enjoyable to read.
Media	Contains multimedia elements that enhance the text content and adds authenticity to the content.
Utility	The handbook provides clear strategies and content specific examples.
Collaboration	The handbook contains evidence of meaningful and equal participation across all team members. The different sections also share a unified and consistent style.

Graphic Organizer

Criteria	Expectation
Content and Scope	The organizer is centered on the primary recommendations of <i>Project Based Teaching</i> . Each primary recommendation is then evaluated based on its feasibility and utility.
Writing Style	The organizer is easy to read and only contains minor errors.
Layout and Organization	The graphic organizer layout is organized so relationships are clearly identified.

TK20 Accreditation Rubric

At the end of the semester you will submit your facilitator handbook to TK20, a program that our college uses to track certain assessments for accreditation purposes. I will use the following rubric to evaluate your project but your score will not be included when calculating your final grade.

Facilitator Handbook			
	3 Exceeds Standard	2 Meets Standard	1 Fails to Meet Standard
Content and scope	Created an exceptional facilitator handbook that displays an expert understanding of using a variety of communication technologies that facilitated interaction and collaboration in ways that result in the construction of meaning, community, and presence and does an excellent job preparing others to facilitate learning activities.	Created a facilitator handbook that displays an adequate understanding using a variety of communication technologies that facilitated interaction and collaboration in ways that result in the construction of meaning, community, and presence and does an adequate job preparing others to facilitate learning activities.	Created a facilitator handbook contains inaccurate or insufficient information.
Writing style	The handbook is easy to read, the ideas are well formulated, free from errors, and engaging for the intended audience.	The handbook is easy to read, the ideas are well formulated, and only contains minor errors.	The book is poorly written and difficult to read.
Layout	The handbook follows best practices for print design and is print ready	Follows best practices for print design	The layout does not follow best practices for print design.