

George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Instructional Design and Technology Program (IDT)  
EDIT 730 - Advanced Instructional Design – Section DL1 – 3 Credits  
Spring 2020 Syllabus

### General Information

**Time:** Tuesdays, 4:30 PM – 7:10 PM  
**Location:** Innovation Hall 336  
**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)  
**Email:** [ndabbagh@gmu.edu](mailto:ndabbagh@gmu.edu)

### 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 and instructional strategies.

Expanded Description: Provides students with the knowledge and skills for designing and facilitating highly contextualized, engaging, and meaningful learning experiences based on the principles of constructivism, situated cognition, and connectivism. 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 proven pedagogical models, instructional strategies, and learning technologies.

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: This course will be delivered online (75% 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 the first day of class. The course will have **five mandatory face-to-face meetings** as follows:

- Tuesday January 21, 4:30 – 7:10, Innovation Hall 336
- Tuesday February 4, 4:30 – 7:10, Innovation Hall 336
- Tuesday March 3, 4:30 – 7:10, Innovation Hall 336
- Tuesday April 7, 4:30 – 7:10, Innovation Hall 336
- Tuesday May 5, 4:30 – 7:10, Innovation Hall 336

### Technical Requirements

**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.**

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

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see: [https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#supported-browsers](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)
- To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see: [https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)
- 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: [Add or delete options, as desire.]
  - 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: Our course week will begin on the day that our face-to-face meetings take place (**Tuesday**) and finish on **Monday**.
- 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 3 times per week**. In addition, students must attend all **five face to face meetings** listed above.
- 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.
- 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 (timeline)** 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

1. Develop an understanding of epistemological approaches to learning and cognition such as **objectivism, behaviorism, cognitivism, constructivism, situated 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 **meaningful learning experiences** using the **Meaningful Online Learning Design Framework**.
4. Examine a variety of constructivist-based **pedagogical models and instructional strategies** and their implications for the design of meaningful learning experiences using a variety of learning technologies.
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/>):

- *Professional Foundations (2)*: Apply research and theory to the discipline of instructional design
- *Planning & Analysis (9)*: Analyze the characteristics of existing & emerging technologies & their potential use
- *Design & Development (10)*: Use an instructional design & development process appropriate for a given project
- *Design & Development (11)*: Organize instructional programs/products to be designed, developed, and evaluated
- *Design & Development (12)*: Design instructional interventions

## Required Texts

Dabbagh, N., Marra, R.M., & Howland, J.L. (2019). *Meaningful online learning: Integrating strategies, activities, and learning technologies for effective designs*. Routledge.

Additional readings are provided on Blackboard (Bb) 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., Bb, TK20, etc.)*

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

In small groups or individually, 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/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 15-20 minute online 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** **25% of grade**

The course includes online and in-class discussions and activities. Online activities include the use of blogs, vlogs, or discussion forums (20%) designed to help you articulate your understanding of the readings, share multiple perspectives and provide constructive peer feedback. In-class or in-person activities (5%) include group work and whole group discussions. Rubrics for evaluating online and in-person 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 learning technology (e.g., immersive tools, collaboration tools, knowledge representation tools) 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, strategy, or technology. More detail is provided on the course website under assignments.

### **Designing a Technology Supported Constructivist Learning Environment (TSCLE)** **25% of grade**

Individually or in small groups, students will select a constructivist based pedagogical model or the characteristics of meaningful learning and will apply a **grounded design approach using the meaningful online learning design framework** to develop a **prototype of the TSCLE** for a specific target audience and learning content. The prototype will demonstrate how supportive, dialogic, and exploratory instructional strategies are implemented. **This is a Performance Based Assessment or PBA (rubric provided at end of syllabus).**

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

1. A **proposal** (design document or brief) describing the parameters of the TSCLE including the learning problem, target audience, learning outcomes (knowledge/skills/content), pedagogical model or meaningful learning framework, instructional strategies, learning activities, learning technologies, and assessment approach.
2. A **design table** depicting the grounded design of the TSCLE. The table is a blueprint or storyboard of the prototype and should illustrate the mapping or alignment of the following design elements: (1) learning outcomes, (2) instructional strategies, (3) learning activities or tasks (what the learners will do) and how these activities support meaningful learning (or the principles of the selected pedagogical model), (4) the learning technologies that will enable learners to accomplish these tasks, and (5) assessment criteria.
3. A **prototype** of the TSCLE showing the **learning activities** that the learners will engage in and the supporting learning technologies. The prototype can be developed in PPT or a technology of your choice (e.g., wiki, googlesites, Wix, Wordpress, 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. See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/policies-procedures/>

**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 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 <https://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 <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices 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 <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

**Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:**

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

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