



Course Syllabus

EDTC 5030	Learning Communities	Spring 2008
Online	Instructor – Mary G. Beckmann Contact phone number: 314-791-6685 Office hours by appointment beckmann@webster.edu or ponotoc2@yahoo.com	1 Credit Hour

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is for individuals in an educational or business setting who have the desire to create and implement successful learning communities with technology in a teaching / instructing atmosphere. This course will take into account researching, creating, formulating, problem solving, and grouping strategies, managing, and evaluating and assessing all aspects of learning communities in the educational / instructional setting. It will take into consideration how to best evaluate students so as to balance groups effectively.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES: Address the ISTE NET standards

- Students will develop an understanding of the basic principles and terminology associated with learning communities. ISTE NETS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, SOE 1, 2, 3, 4
- Students will identify, compare, and contrast effectiveness of various models of LCs and be aware of what will and will not work with curriculum content. ISTE NETS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, SOE 1, 2, 3, 4
- Students will be aware of possible problems, obstacles, and solutions of LCs. ISTE NETS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, SOE 1, 2, 3, 4
- Students will determine which types of technologies work best in LCs to assure student expansion of thinking and learning skills. ISTE NETS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, SOE 1, 2, 3, 4
- Students will combine a lesson plan with technology and successfully create or adapt an existing lesson plan to form and manage a learning community that will enhance student's individual strengths. ISTE NETS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, SOE 1, 2, 3, 4
- Students will use strategies to group for a successful LC. ISTE NETS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, SOE 1, 2, 3, 4
- Students will use strategies to assess and evaluate the results of LCs. ISTE NETS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, SOE 1, 2, 3, 4

This course is designed to engage the student in a familiarity with the idea of community and the development of interactive and communally-based learning methods. MOSTEP 1.2.11.1, 1.2.11.2, 1.2.11.3, 1.2.11.4, 1.2.11.5, 1.2.11.6

3. ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS.

The schedule will approximate the following:

Week 1: What are LCs - how do they work – time line and history of LCs

Week 2: Types of LCs and their effectiveness – learning styles and grouping styles

Week 3: Teacher preparations – pre teach, assign jobs - types of technology tools that will work best with LCs, project / activity ideas

Week 4: Obstacles and overcoming obstacles, evaluating and assessing / final project

a) Attendance/Participation/Posts = 10 points

b) Misc. worksheets = 40 points

c) Weekly posts/assignments = 10 points

d) Final worksheet project = 40 points

e) The instructor will provide feedback on each assignment within seven days of submission. The instructor will maintain the grade book on a weekly basis.

f) Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student involved in plagiarism will be immediately dismissed from the course with a failing grade and will be reported to the department chairperson for further action.

4. RESOURCES

Suggested Text:

Shapiro S. & Levine Jodi H.; Creating Learning Communities: A Practical Guide to Winning Support, Organizing for Change, and Implementing Programs; Nancy Jossey-Bass Inc. Publishers: 1999; ISBN: 0-7879-4462-9

Supplemental Readings:

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/month5/demonstration.html> Classroom Videos of LCs
<http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/ejournals/JTE/jte-v7n1/gokhale.jte-v7n1.html> Collaborative Learning (aka LC)
http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/month5/index_sub2.html How LCs have changed
<http://www.ericfacility.net/ericdigests/ed370881.html> Cooperative Learning
<http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/intech/cooperativelearning.htm> Cooperative Learning

As well as articles chosen by the instructor

5. EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE:

93-100 = A
90-92 = A-
86-89 = B+
83-85 = B
80-82 = B-
76-79 = C+

All academic and professional behavior of students in this course is subject to review for the purposes of student evaluation.

The final project may not be returned to you, so please make a copy prior to submitting it to your instructor.

6. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Students at Webster University are expected to practice academic honesty.

In its broadest sense, plagiarism is using someone else's work or ideas, presented or claimed as your own. Any time you refer to another person's work, whether as a direct quotation or paraphrased, you must use a citation. Students should not copy more than two paragraphs from any source as a major component of papers or projects. All citations must be properly documented and references must be provided using APA guidelines (<http://library.webster.edu/citation.html>).

7. ACCESSIBILITY/ACCOMODATIONS POLICY:

If you have a disability, please notify your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your accommodation needs.

8. ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is crucial in all online courses. This means that a student is expected to login to the course several times during each week.

Even though you are not required to be logged in at any precise time or day, you are expected to login several times during each week. It is important to actively participate each week in the course.

Students who do not complete the requirements of the course must contact the instructor prior to the end of the course to complete an Incomplete Course form. Incompletes are not awarded except in emergencies, as defined by the instructor.

NB: An Incomplete may only be awarded to a student who has maintained a passing grade up to the point of the emergency. Incomplete grades will change to a grade of F or NC unless the requirements stipulated on the incomplete form are met by the date listed on the form or one calendar year from the end of the course, whichever comes first.

9. **OTHER**
N/A

10. **STANDARDS / GOALS:**

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) - National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS) – http://cnets.iste.org/teachers/t_stands.html

ISTE NET Standards:

1. **Technology operations and concepts.**
Teachers demonstrate a sound understanding of technology operations and concepts.
2. **Planning and designing learning environments and experiences.**
Teachers plan and design effective learning environments and experiences supported by technology.
3. **Teaching, learning, and the curriculum.**
Teachers implement curriculum plans that include methods and strategies for applying technology to maximize student learning.
4. **Assessment and evaluation.**
Teachers apply technology to facilitate a variety of effective assessment and evaluation strategies.
5. **Productivity and professional practice.**
Teachers use technology to enhance their productivity and professional practice.
6. **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.

The School of Education (SOE) Goals:

1. **The knowledgeable learner:**
Education candidates will demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter, knowledge of the learner, and knowledge of pedagogy based on inquiry and scholarship.
2. **The informed instructor:**
Education candidates will incorporate multiple assessment and instructional strategies to support effective educational practices based on research and theory.
3. **The reflective collaborator:**
Education candidates will reflect on the roles educators take as leaders of change through collaboration with colleagues, students, and families in schools and communities.
4. **The responsive educator:**
Education candidates will demonstrate respect for diversity through responsive teaching and learning that values individual differences.

The progress of students in this course toward ISTE Nets or School of Education goals may be recorded for the purpose of program evaluation, not for student assessment. If you have any questions about this, please contact your instructor.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.