

Assignment 3
Instructional Strategy for Learning Technologies
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EDCI-718

Student Learning Outcome:

Students will recognize specific presentation tools available and they will acquire the skills to use this application to enhance their learning and teaching.

Students will think critically about Open Education and MOOCs and will compare it to other forms of education.

Evaluation

For this lesson, the students will be evaluated by creating a mini prezi about a topic discussed in one of the seminars. Students will be provided with a list of topics and are required to choose one. Each student will use the web based online prezi software to create and publish their prezi's. Students will be graded based on the following check list:

- Accuracy of content and information
- Overall Design
- Use of Higher order thinking skills

Instructional Strategy

This course runs for two hours every week for 12 weeks so overall 24 hours of instruction. One hour will be a seminar followed by an hour of computer lab. Every week, the students will be provided with one article to read each week. There will occasionally be expected to watch some videos before attending the seminars to prepare them for the discussion.

To keep the class up to date, there will be no textbook. The required reading material for

this class will be a collection of journal articles that are discussed in the seminars. At the beginning of the course students are introduced to Bloom's Taxonomy and Higher order thinking skills. The reason for doing this is to get them to understand what is required and expected of them in their assignments.

During seminars, students are formed into groups and are required to discuss a certain topic or idea. During labs, students are introduced to a new educational web tool every week. They are expected to follow the instructions provided on how to use the web tool and are extremely encouraged to use it creatively. The lab work is to be submitted by the end of every week and will be accumulated with the final grade. The instructor will be there during seminars and labs to assist and mentor the students. The course does not have any tests or exams, rather it is graded on participation (attendance) in seminars and the lab work as well as a final project.

An example of a seminar:

Please view at least one of these videos and read the article to get a clear idea of MOOC courses which is our topic of discussion in the seminar:

1. What is a MOOC? by Dave Cormier, December 8, 2010:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW3gMGqcZQc>
2. Siemens, G. (2011). George Siemens on massive open online courses (MOOCs) [Online Video]. May 5, 2011:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMfipxhT_Co
3. Daphne Koller: What we're learning from online education, June 2012, Posted August 2, 2012; TED:
http://www.ted.com/talks/daphne_koller_what_we_re_learning_from_online_education.html YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6FvJ6jMGHU>

Karen Doss Bowman (2012, Summer). Winds of Change: Is Higher Education Experiencing a Shift in Delivery?, *Public Purpose Magazine* (from the American

Association of State Colleges and Universities) Available:
<http://www.aascu.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=5570>

Seminar Worksheet:

Q1- What are MOOC's?

Q2- What are some of the main MOOC providers?

Q3- Would you consider taking a MOOC for credit? and for non-credit?

Q4- How would you be able to differentiate between a good quality MOOC and a poor quality MOOC?

Q5- Compare between Open Education and MOOCs and the traditional way of teaching and learning.

Q6- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of Open Education and MOOC's.

The seminar worksheet is uploaded on to the online platform and students are expected to view the questions and answer them before they come to the seminar. During the seminar students will discuss their views and opinions with the rest of the class. All of the questions are to be covered in one large class discussion to get more opinions on these topics.

An example of a lab:

Using Prezi to create presentations

1- Open your web browser

2- Go to prezi.com

3- On the menu bar on the top of the page, click explore. Watch one of the prezis on the 'Ideas Matter Contest Finalists' list.

4- Using your email create a prezi account.

5- Create your own prezi about one of the topics covered in one of the following topics (All are topics discussed in the seminars).

- Social Media in Education
- Youtube, TED Talks and the use of Video in Educaiton
- MOOC and open courseware
- Web Quests
- Using Virtual Worlds in Education

Rationale

The way this class is traditionally taught in Saudi is by giving a two hour lecture every week which dictates a textbook that they will be questioned about in a midterm and a final exam. Students leave the class with no technical skills to take with them. They concentrate more on getting grades on their exams and therefore they memorize their textbooks without really understanding or applying that information to their real lives or enhancing their technical skills.

This system must change. The subject taught in this course gives so much room for creativity and therefore is an excellent place to start changing the education system. Students should not be lectured and dictated. They should be taught how to express themselves and how to be valuable 21st century citizens. Learning Technologies should no longer be taught by having them answer a test or an exam paper that they will most likely forget as soon as they leave the course. This course should be transformed into enhancing the students technical skills and improving their technical abilities and the way they think and view technology. Developing critical thinking and technology skills are my goals for this course.

Using projects to evaluate their learning is a better method than testing because it triggers their creativity and gives them room to grow and learn in their own ways. Moreover evaluating their participation and attendance in seminars will motivate them to read and watch the materials and participate in discussions. This would also take away the pressure off of memorizing textbooks and shift the focus of the course towards, the actual goals

which are critical thinking and learning as well as applying new technical skills.

The reason for choosing articles and videos instead of a textbook is to provide students with the most cutting edge information available. Technology changes very rapidly and most technology textbooks are outdated by the time they are published. By changing the way the course is instructed and providing different materials and sources the course could become very interesting and educational.