

EDLT 5140: Fostering Online Learning Communities

New Mexico State University

Fall 2023, Mini Semester 1: January 18, 2023 — March 10, 2023

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Office Hours: By appointment. Please use this link to schedule an online appointment with me:

<https://calendly.com/melissawarr/15min>. I will respond to emails and calls within 48 hours on business days.

Course: EDLT 5140 U71, M71

Credit Hours: 3

Delivery method: Online and asynchronous

Required Texts

All readings will be provided in Canvas.

Course Overview

This course, Fostering Online Learning Communities, will provide you with the opportunity to explore the research, resources, technology tools, and online spaces necessary for participating in and developing successful online learning communities. In the past, it was perfectly acceptable to create online courses that provided mostly content, tests, and very little instruction or interaction between teacher and student/s or student to student. This is no longer acceptable. What we know about 21st Century Skills, today's learners, and the increasing availability of powerful online learning tools provides a clear mandate to take online teaching to the next level and that includes the building and fostering of learning communities in our online classes.

Course Learning Objectives

In this course, we will:

- Explore socio-cultural perspectives on learning and discuss how they relate to equity in technology and education.
- Discuss online learning theories as they apply to community in online learning.
- Apply theory to create and implement learning designs that support the socio-cultural aspects of learning.

- Experience and reflect on collaborative problem-based learning.
- Discuss topics related to online learner success and online evaluation rubrics (specifically the Quality Matters rubric).

Engagement Hours

The course is designed to provide learning opportunities and activities totaling a minimum of 127.5 hours. This estimate is for the typical student. The designed activities may take you more or less time to complete depending on your experience and familiarity with the course topics. Following is a breakdown of time estimates for activities in this course:

- Assigned reading and resources: articles and videos (about 3 hours each week) totaling approx. 24 hours
- Video lectures: 1-3 each week (about 1 hour each week), totaling approx. 8 hours
- Online discussions and activities: 1-2 per week (2 hours each week), totaling approx. 16 hours
- Group project, report, and reflections (10 hours each week), approx. 80 hours

Course Expectations

Because this is an 8-week course, I expect that you will contribute to the course about every other day. Keeping up with this fast track is critical to your success. Also, all students will exhibit the behavior of a mature college student and complete assignments by assigned due dates. You are expected to log-in regularly during each week to complete all assignments, including participation in the course discussions.

Missing weekly assignments will adversely affect your grade. You may receive half credit for late assignments. **You will not be able to make up missed discussions or group activities.**

This course is not self-paced! Therefore, begin working on course readings and activities toward the beginning date of each module and work consistently until the end of each module when I will evaluate your effort.

Course Organization

This course consists of 8 modules, one for each week of class. The modules will be made available by the first day of each week (generally a Monday) and can be found in the "Module" section in Canvas. Work through the modules step by step, and be sure to **watch all videos**.

An additional overview module includes course information, an introduction video, and a Canvas tour video.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Individual Project Assignments¹	Team Project Assignments
1: 1/18 – 1/22	Introduction, Social Learning Theories 1		Team contract

¹ These assignments are in addition to weekly readings, lecture videos, or other activities

2: 1/23 – 1/29	Social Learning Theories 2, WisCom		
3: 1/30 – 2/5	Online learning theories, supporting online student success		Check-in 1; Slide Deck Part 1 and 2
4: 2/6 – 2/12	Team 1 presentation and activity	Evaluation 1, Reflection 1	Slide Deck Part 3, Evaluation 1
5: 2/13 – 2/19	Team 2 presentation and activity		Check-in 2; Slide Deck Part 4
6: 2/20 – 2/26	Team 3 presentation and activity	Reflection 2	
7: 2/27 – 3/5	Quality Matters?		Slide Deck Part 5
8: 3/5 – 3/10	Final Reflections and Evaluation	Evaluation 2, Final Reflection	Slide Deck Part 6
Final Evaluation and Reflection Due Friday, March 10, 2023			

NOTE: The deadline for withdrawing from a course to receive a refund is **January 27, 2023**. Students may withdraw from a course and receive a "W" (no refund) by **February 16, 2023**. The last day to withdraw from the university is **March 3, 2022**. All important dates can be found at <https://records.nmsu.edu/important-dates-students/>.

Assignments and Grading

See Canvas for full assignment descriptions and due dates.

Category	Description	Week(s) Due (due Sunday Nights unless otherwise indicated)	Weight of Grade
Weekly Activities	Video lectures, collaborative reading and annotating, discussions, and other weekly activities	Weekly	25%
Individual Reflections	Three individual and one final reflection	4, 6, 8*	25%
Team Evaluations	Team participation score based on self and peer evaluations	5, 8*	25%
Team Project	Team assignments	See Course Schedule	25%

*Week 8 work is due Friday, March 10, 2023

Note: Grades in the course are assigned using Fractional Grading

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A+	97%+
A	94% – 96%
A-	90% – 93%
B+	87% – 89%
B	84% – 86%
B-	80% – 83%
C+	77% – 79%
C	74% – 76%
C-	70% – 73%
D+	67% – 69%
D	64% – 66%
D-	60% – 63%
F	0% – 59%

Online Preparation

As this is an accelerated graduate-level course, you will be expected to commit significant time each week. According to the Carnegie Credit Hour system, you can expect to spend up to 16 hours on this course each week. You should spread the work across the week, as you will need to participate several times each week to fully participate in discussions. You are expected to access the course no later than the 2nd day of each week.

Required Technical Skills

Taking an online course requires a number of technical skills as well as other soft skills. However, at a minimum you will need to meet certain technology responsibilities to complete work for this course. If you have questions about technical requirements for the course, please contact me immediately.

To begin in this course, you must:

1. Read this syllabus carefully and contact me immediately if you have any questions. You are responsible for the content and assignments in this syllabus.
2. Be able to obtain access to an internet connection, preferably broadband, and a working computer for the duration of this course.
3. Be Proficient with Microsoft© Office applications.
4. Be able to conduct research searches on the Internet; see the [libguide for this course](#), the [NMSU Library](#) and [Research Help for Students](#)
5. Find resources on the Internet; see [Internet Tutorials](#).
6. Be able to send and receive emails and email attachments in and out of class.
7. Know how to change your Canvas Notification settings.
8. Know how to read email in Canvas.

9. Maintain backups of all work you create for this course.

Netiquette

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving politely online. Something about cyberspace makes it easy for people to forget that they are interacting with other real people. The following bullet points cover some basics to communicating online:

1. Be sensitive to the fact that classmates will come from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as hold different political and religious beliefs. Plus they will have other differences.
2. Use good taste when composing your responses in Discussion Forums. Swearing and using profanity is often insensitive to your classmates so should be avoided. Also, consider that slang can be misunderstood or misinterpreted.
3. Don't use all capital letters when composing your responses as this is considered "shouting" on the Internet and is regarded as impolite or aggressive. It can also be stressful on the eye when trying to read your message.
4. Be respectful of others' views and opinions. Avoid "flaming" (publicly attacking or insulting) them as this can cause hurt feelings and decrease the chances of learning from different points of view.
5. Be careful when using acronyms. If you use an acronym it is best to spell out its meaning first, then put the acronym in parentheses afterward, for example: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). After that you can use the acronym freely throughout your message.
6. Use good grammar and spelling, and avoid using text-messaging shortcuts.

Technology Requirements

Supported Software

All programs are available through NMSU or have free licenses available:

- [Canvas LMS](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Canvas Studio](#)
- Flipgrid (access through Canvas)
- Perusall (access through Canvas)
- [Scratch](#)
- [Canva](#)
- [Adobe Express](#)
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Other free media creation tools such as Google Sites, Wix, etc. You will choose which of these tools to use.

Computer and Operating System

- 4GB of RAM or higher
- Dual Core 2GHz or higher (Intel Core i5 processor or equivalent)
- Microphone (built-in, wired, USB, wireless or Bluetooth)
- Web camera (built-in or USB)

Operating System:

- Windows 10 or higher
- OS X 10.13 or higher

A list of Academic Technology favorite microphones and USB webcams can be found at

<https://learning.nmsu.edu/minimum-technology-requirements/>

Internet

- Broadband connection (25 Mbps download, 3Mbps upload as defined by the [FCC](#))
- Wired connection (ethernet) preferred
- Stable wireless connection is acceptable
- Use the [NMSU Checs Speedtest](#) to test your internet speed

Web Browsers

- Latest two versions of [Chrome](#)
- Latest two versions of [Firefox](#)
- Javascript must be enabled

Use only the latest version of Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox for Canvas. Safari, Internet Explorer and Microsoft Edge have known issues that can interfere with performing basic tasks within Canvas. The links to ensure you have the latest version are listed below:

- [How to update Google Chrome](#)
- [How to update Mozilla Firefox](#)

Accessibility of eLearning Tools

Some general or common VPAT links. Add or revise as needed.

- [Adobe Products: Section 508 VPATs for \(Adobe Connect 9, Adobe Acrobat, and more\)](#)
- [Apple Products: Section 508 VPATs for](#) (Safari Web Browser, Mac OS X, and more)
- [Microsoft Products: Section 508 VPATs for](#) (Internet Explorer, Office, Skype, and more)
- [Google Products: Section 508 VPATs for](#) (Google Earth, Chrome Web Browser, Google Docs, and more)
- [Firefox Web Browser: Section 508 VPAT \(version 3.5 and up\)](#)

Technical Support

The ICT Customer Service Center is equipped to deal with all of your information technology (IT) and telecommunications needs at NMSU. The ICT Customer Service Center hours of operation are from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday Mountain Time. Please feel free to contact them at 646-1840 or via e-mail at helpdesk@nmsu.edu.

You can also go to the [Student Technology Help](#) web page and [Student Resources](#) located at the [Canvas](#) web page for additional information on Canvas.

Syllabus Modifications Statement

This syllabus is subject to revision to best fit the educational needs of the class. Any changes or modifications will be announced in class and/or on Canvas.

Student Services and University Policies

Please visit <https://provost.nmsu.edu/faculty-and-staff-resources/syllabus/policies.html> for university policies and student services, including Discrimination and Disability Accommodation, academic misconduct, student services, final exam schedule, grading policies and more.

Discrimination and Disability Accommodation

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Main Campus

Disability Access Services
Corbett Center Student Union Room 204
Aaron Salas, Director
575-646-6840

New Mexico State University, in compliance with applicable laws and in furtherance of its commitment to fostering an environment that welcomes and embraces diversity, does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, spousal affiliation, or protected veteran status in its programs and activities, including employment, admissions, and educational programs and activities. **You may submit a report online at equity.nmsu.edu. If you have an urgent concern, please contact the Office of Institutional Equity at 575-646-3635.**

Title IX prohibits sex harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, stalking and retaliation. For more information on discrimination or Title IX, or to file a complaint contact:

Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) - O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue
Phone: (575) 646-3635
E-mail: equity@nmsu.edu
[Office of Institutional Equity Website](#)

Other NMSU Resources:

NMSU Police Department: (575) 646-3311
www.nmsupolice.com
NMSU Aggie Health & Wellness (Medical and counseling services): (575) 646-1512
<https://wellness.nmsu.edu/>
NMSU Dean of Students: (575) 646-1722
For Any On-campus Emergencies: 911