

EDTC 645 Readings: Fall 2009

Unit 1- Introduction

1. As summarized in "Digital natives, Digital Immigrants," what is the single biggest problem facing education today? What was meant by "Digital Natives"? How does this relate to you as an educator or instructional developer?
2. As set forth in "The Myth about Online Course Development," what two individuals should be paired together in order to create an effective model for online-course design? Briefly summarize your views on this topic as both a student and as an educator/developer.
3. As enumerated in "General Education Issues, Distance Education Practices: Building Community and Classroom Interaction Through the In," what are two of the five categories into which the principles for the design of distance education were grouped?

Unit 2- Curriculum & Instructional Design

1. As explained in "Designing for Learning: The Pursuit of Well-Structured Content," what are the relevant differences between digital content and "traditional content"?
2. As given in "A Brief History of Instructional Design," what is the argument central to Robert Branson's "Upper Limit Hypothesis?" Do you agree or disagree with this view & why?
3. As presented in "Changes in Brain Function in Children with Dyslexia after Training," how did the Fast ForWord Language training program work? How does that program relate to your views or theoretical orientation to education?

Unit 3- Classroom Applications & Software Evaluations

1. As described in "Implementing PDAs in a College Course: One Professor's Perspective," what are the three strengths of a PDA?
2. As outlined in "Digital Game-Based Learning," what is at least one of the approaches that educators have generally adopted for integrating games into the learning process? What is your view of this area in general?
3. As presented in "Podcasting and Vodcasting: A White Paper," describe the steps in the pod/VODcasting process. Describe what do you consider to be a relevant educational application of this technology?

Unit 4- Teacher Training

1. As reported in "Student Teachers' Perceptions of Instructional Technology; Developing Materials Based on a Constructivist Approach," what is a central tenet of constructivism regarding the nature of the learning process and what determines learning? Describe an aspect of technologies that you feel particularly relevant to this view.
2. As described in "Assessing and Monitoring Student Progress in an E-Learning Personnel Preparation Environment," what are the principles reinforcing the importance of integrating assessment with distance instruction?
3. As reported in "Assessing the Technology Training Needs of Elementary School Teachers," what are the barriers to integrating technology into the curriculum that were cited in Hoffman's study. Does this agree with what you would expect?

Unit 5- Multimedia & Technology

1. As cited in "Boomers and Gen-Xers Millennials: Understanding the New Students," what are the reasons that students give for finding the use of technology in schools to be disappointing? Suggest a way to change one of these problems in education.
2. As listed in "Technologies for Teaching Science and Mathematics in K-12 Schools: Reviews, Observations and Directions for Practice," what are several of the "theoretical lenses" that play a part in the work of science and mathematics teachers? Identify one that you feel is close to your views.
3. As discussed in "Smarttutor: Combining Smartbooks and Peer Tutors for Multi-Media On-Line Instruction," describe the human resources whose input was of major importance in the development of the SmartTutor system. (peer tutors; students; faculty; advanced computer and information science majors)

Unit 6- Learning Management Systems and Learning Objects

1. As identified in "Changing Course Management Systems: Lessons Learned," describe the factors examined in evaluating the transition of a Blackboard course to Desire2Learn at the University of North Dakota.
2. As listed in Classroom Assessment In Web-Based Instructional Environment: Instructor's Experience, what are the recommendations on the assessment process provided by Penn State University and Lincoln University?
3. Locate an article on the Internet that discusses Moodle in relation to the general topic of Course Management Systems. Provide the title, author and URL and give a brief description of your views on the selection of such systems.

Unit 7- The Internet & Computer Networks

1. As listed in "The Myth about Student Competency "Our Students Are Technologically Competent", " what are the five strategic questions that college executives should ask themselves about student IT competency? What do you feel to be the most important?
2. How, as suggested in "Probing for Plagiarism in the Virtual Classroom," does the Glatt Plagiarism Screening Program help to detect plagiarism? How does that program compare with the Turn-It-In program that is used at TAMU?
3. Why, as suggested in "The Web's Impact on Student Learning," has the advent of online learning in colleges and universities been a boon for pedagogy? What do you feel is the most relevant aspect?

Unit 8- Distributed Learning

1. As explained in "Software Agents to Assist in Distance Learning Environments," what are the important functions that the assignment-handling system enables a distance learner to do?
2. As described in "The Virtual Revolution: Understanding Online Schools," how do traditional classrooms and virtual classrooms differ in terms of time and learning?
3. What, as maintained in "Learner Support Services for Online Students: Scaffolding for Success," are the student skills needed to deal with the demands of studying at a distance? Describe your views related to the issue of expecting students to have these skills as compared to helping them learn these skills.