

EDD 7007: Principles of Distance Education Reflections

EDD 7007 Course Reflection

EDD 7007 was a great introduction course for the ITDE program. Learning about the historical, theoretical and philosophical foundations of distance education gave me a better understanding and a new perspective of what to expect in in the ITDE program. Working in a training and development office, I found learning effective teaching techniques at a distance very useful and applicable to my job. With previous exposure to distance education I was still able to gain insight from this course through the various videos, readings and assignments that explained various theories and approaches on distance education that were new to me.

This course had weekly discussions and postings required and with this being the first class requiring so much interaction and participation, it set a clear expectation to me about what to anticipate in future classes. I am very thankful for the professor being so organized and having every week's requirement laid out chronologically, this made it easier for me to keep up with the various deadlines. The format of this course also showed me how effective clear instructions to a learner can make a difference in successfully executing a distance education course.

The exposure to different distance educating technologies, instructional best practices, and learning about the importance of the medium versus the media made me have a new appreciation for distance education and the work that my department does in implementing distance education for learning. This course taught me that the tools we use help us reach the learners, but without a good plan and content learning objectives would not be met. One of the things that stood out to me in this course is the history of distance education and how it all started. From correspondence courses to people using social media for learning, it is amazing how effective teaching and learning techniques have changed so little.

Assignment 1: Research Exercise

This assignment was a research exercise that made me look up information on distance education programs at a different university. It was a good activity to show me a comparison of what Nova and other schools offer. This assignment also gave me perspective of how I wanted to design my website after trying to navigate and rate other websites. Though a simple assignment, it took time and taught me that no matter what kind of research one has to do, it requires time and effort in order to gather the information desired. It also taught me how to incorporate personal interviews in my citations.

Assignment 2: Website

This assignment introduced me to several website editors including the Weebly site where this site has been designed and organized. I really enjoyed learning about all the free and easy to use tools available for everyone. I found the Weebly site to be extremely user friendly and the best tool select for completing this assignment. This site, <http://yaulei.com>, started as an assignment for this class and I have continued to build on it throughout the ITDE program and it is now also my ePortfolio. This assignment has taught me how to effortlessly make a website that I could use to make professional portfolios.

Assignment 3: Lesson plan & Web-based Lesson about Distance Education

I work with communications for my department and I don't really get the opportunity to create any of the web-based lessons, but I mainly assist in graphically enhancing presentations. This assignment was a lot of fun for me because it gave me the opportunity to create a mini lesson from beginning to the end. I started out with a lesson plan that really helped guide me on how I wanted my lesson to look like and what learning objectives I wanted it to include. I also had to include a time line to an assessment that ensured me the learner understood the content. In creating my lesson I learned more about twitter and what it takes to create a web based lesson.

