

EDD 8001 Instructional Design Reflections

Course Reflection

This course has given me the opportunity to become familiar with instructional design and it provided me with practical experience as I completed each assignment. The format of the course made it challenging to complete some of the assignments because of the amount of detail required in each one. A couple of the assignments were missing good examples or any examples and made it difficult to execute with only the text book and instructions provided. The lesson learned from this situation is the importance of communication and reaching out to the professor as much as possible in order to clarify all queries.

I currently work in a training and development department where I have the opportunity to work with instructional designers. I have been able to apply the skills I have learned in this course by developing an instructional unit for a program in my department and by presenting the process of creating an instructional unit to my team. The educational research for practitioners' course prepared me to broadly look at the requirements of the instructional design course and tackle each assignment with an end result in mind. I was able to apply lessons learned in previous courses such as creating evaluations, conducting assessments and writing objectives. The rubric for each assignment in this course was very helpful in providing a guideline that directly correlated to each learning objectives. It also taught me importance of creating a set of criteria and standards as an attempt to ensure quality.

Even though I faced some minor obstacles, I was also able to gain an in-depth knowledge of how systematic instructional design is and how it continuously evolves based not only on the needs of the learner, but on the learning outcomes desired. This course taught me how to conduct thorough analyses, determine appropriate use of objectives and assessments, how to identify

appropriate media and much more. After completing all the assignments I was able to develop efficient and effective student materials and assessments. I also learned how to plan and execute evaluations for an instructional unit.

Assignment 1: Project Proposal

Writing a proposal to describe an instructional project that I would later produce made me think of selecting something that would not only be professional, but applicable to what I currently do at work. I proposed writing about how to use the Adobe Acrobat software to create a pdf portfolio. This assignment taught me to think of all the components needed to create an instructional project. It also taught me how to properly identify and classify the domains of learning for the selected instructional material. Being able to propose a project is a lesson that is not only relevant for this course, but applicable in the workplace.

Assignment 2: Hierarchical Analysis Diagram

The hierarchical analysis diagram looked like a simple one page task that was actually very intricate and detailed. This assignment showed me how a diagram can provide a designer with the specific information that can assist in creating effective and efficient instructional material. I learned that when designing a flow chart like this I need to consider my audience and make sure that the entry skills and subordinate skills are identified. I also had to challenge myself in ensuring that I could clearly define and demonstrate relationships among the skills and knowledge, while also warranting the use of measurable performance verbs.

Assignment 3: Performance Objectives & Assessment

In this assignment I was able to build upon the previous two assignments and utilize some of the skills in creating an assessment from the CUR 526 course. I was able to see how useful the diagram was in how it aided me in developing a series of objectives. This assignment

had several components and gave me more insight in how detailed instructional design is. Having to make sure I included behavioral verbs, described the audience, and described conditions, included learner actions and proper assessment methods was challenging, but necessary. After creating the checklist, I was able to see how the detailed information would allow anyone to understand the goal of the project and how the transfer of learning would occur.

Assignment 4: Design Plan

The design plan assignment was a great teaching tool that I will definitely use in my current workplace. Even though I am not in charge of the designers, this assignment taught me how to develop a plan to communicate to the instructional designer on my team. In writing a narrative for the designers, I was able to create a detailed proposal with clear instructions on material, content, activities, and assessments. My design plan taught me how the learning components are incorporated, how to provide specifications on the design criteria, and how to describe the instructional material along with helpful images to guide a developer.

Assignment 5: Formative Evaluation Plan

The formative evaluation plan was time consuming, but a valuable lesson in the importance of having a plan when creating evaluations. Prior to this course my exposure to evaluation planning was basic. The process of planning every detail and including information on the background, purpose, and methods of executing the formative evaluation showed me how this process better prepared me in creating the formative evaluation. This assignment also allowed me to have an overview of what my next steps were, provided me with a timeline and taught me how a formative evaluation can demonstrate the effectiveness of stated learning outcomes.

Assignment 6: Print-Based Instructional Materials

To create the print-based instructional materials I used the design plan and previous assignments as my guide in creating the assignment. With my previous experience in printing instructional guides for courses held in my workplace, I was able to ensure that my print-based instructional materials were professional looking and included all sections necessary for completion of the module. I include various learning components to ensure learner attains the stated goal. In this assignment I learned that the level of detail and clarity included in an instructional material determines how well a learner will be able to follow unaided instructions and achieve the learning outcome desired.

Assignment 7: Formative Evaluation Report

The formative evaluation report allowed me to not only reflect on my work, but provided me with results on the effectiveness of my instructional material. Being able to discuss the contents of the material with learners of various backgrounds and level of experience, gave me an opportunity to evaluate the reach I had with the current amount of instruction provided and if there needed to be any modifications made. I found this process to be insightful and helpful in that I can implement this reporting process when evaluating courses in the workplace to ensure they are current and reflect improvements based on results proposed from the evaluation.