LTEC 6010 Course Syllabus

General Information

College Name: University of North Texas
College/Dept.: College of Information / Learning Technologies
Course Name: LTEC 6010, Theory of Instructional Technology

Instructor Information
Instructor: Deborah Cockerham, PhD
Contact Information: Canvas email or UNT email (deborah.cockerham@unt.edu)
Office Hours: By appointment--All appointments will be online this semester.

Class Meetings
Meeting: Monday, 6:00 PM
Zoom link: https://unt.zoom.us/j/98008333976
All meetings will be conducted online through Zoom.

Course Description
The intent of this course is to provide both an overview and foundational readings in the areas of instructional technology philosophy, theory, research, issues, trends, and methods. In addition, you will be given direction and practice related to writing coherent arguments supported by research as would be done in an article or book chapter and will be expected to do so at least six times (4 minor and 2 major argument submissions) over the course of the semester. You will be expected to participate in discussion and activities related to the readings and provide analysis and critique of both published articles and peer argument writing.

Course Goals

- Compare and contrast the basic philosophies and theoretical frames that have shaped both the field of education and the learning technologies field.
- Write formal arguments in the manner required of academic publications.
- Compose oral argumentation in class towards a goal of generating modified, revised, or new theory.
- Evaluate current theory that is pushing the boundaries of education.
- Apply knowledge of philosophy.
- Practice elements of good critique needed for future work in book reviews, journals, conferences, etc.

Each module details specific aligned objectives.
Required Text


Other assigned readings should be looked up in the UNT library or other database such as Google Scholar.

1. Course Information

1.1 Overview

The focus for this class is on analyzing, designing, developing, and improving instruction and learning by employing a systems view.

1.2 Topics covered in this class

- Philosophy of education
- Philosophy of learning technologies
- Writing for academic audiences
- Construction of logical arguments towards research

1.3 Class Policies

Student responsibilities with this course

1. Be able to work independently on course objectives, given that the format for interaction with faculty and students will be somewhat non-traditional.

2. Attend and participate in all online course meetings (UNT Policy 06.039)

3. Verify appropriate hardware and software as described in the course description.

4. Provide instructor with access to a working email account.

5. Contact instructor or instructor assistant within two days if any problems develop with regard to accessing the course.

6. Adhere to communication parameters.

7. Comply with appropriate electronic etiquette and abbreviations.

8. Acquire all necessary software and books.

9. Complete all course requirements by posted deadlines.
10. Access online resources as needed.

1.4 Student Communication

Students should contact the instructor through Canvas email or UNT email (Deborah.cockerham@unt.edu). Instructor will respond to student emails within two working days (48 hours). Working days do not include weekends, or holidays. Students are also encouraged to develop communication networks with other class members via electronic communication vehicles such as Canvas, email, discussions, Adobe Connect, and/or other chat tools.

Students should consider the communication parameters with regard to Assignment Due Dates. Please be aware that instructor will not be able to respond to last minute emails asking for assignment clarification. You should be aware that there may be unforeseen problems with your Internet provider, software, or hardware, so do not wait until the last minute to work on this course.

1.5 Attendance

You will be expected to attend all online synchronous classes unless some form of emergency arises. It is very important that I see you the few times we are scheduled to meet this semester. If possible, contact me prior to class by e-mail or leave a message on my voice mail if you will be unable to attend. If you miss four (4) class meetings, you will be dropped from the course with a WF.

2.0 Grading Policies

2.1 Time and Assignment Expectations

Readings will be online as you need them. For this course, you are expected to complete an average of 90 minutes of in-class work and approximately 5-7 hours of additional work outside of class (readings, blogs, writing, watching class videos). This will vary throughout the semester.

2.2 Semester assignments

1. Arguments
   a. Minor arguments
      1. You will write four (4) 3-to 5-page arguments in response to weekly topics.
      2. The topics range from introductions to instructional technology to the use of digital games for learning.
      3. Submit in Canvas under the appropriate week.
      4. You will receive specific feedback from the instructor or TA at this point.
b. Major arguments

Write two (2) large-scale page arguments/meta-analyses/critiques over the course of the semester that are expansions of two of the minor arguments you have already constructed. These will incorporate both peer and instructor feedback and should be very polished.

i. Majors should be 8-10 pages long.

ii. Font will be 12 pt., double-spaced, in APA style in response to one of the topics provided for that week.

iii. See the examples posted in Canvas. You may complete as many as you wish, but four is the minimum.

iv. These are intended to be minor versions of what you might eventually turn into an article.

v. Each of these will be an expansion of a minor argument with feedback, so you are effectively only expanding from 3 pages to between 8-10.

vi. At the conclusion of the review, you will receive a rubric from the instructor with an evaluation of your work and suggestions for improvement.

2. Blog reflections

You will keep a blog in which you reflect on your weekly work related to your research projects. Some weeks, your instructor will give you a topic. Other weeks, you need to choose your own. You will also take notes on your readings and keep them in the blog like a journal.

2.3 Late Work Policy

Each assignment is due on the date specified in Canvas. Assignments submitted one day late will earn a maximum grade of 75%. Assignments submitted two days late will earn a maximum of 50%. After two days, the grade is zero (0%), unless you have contacted me and we have made a specific arrangement because of a serious emergency. Children’s birthday parties do not count as emergencies.

Activities in class are intended to help you learn the subject matter better. It is important that you participate in these because they will impact your grades.

2.4 Grade Averages and Final Grades
Grades will be determined based on the above requirements. Grades above 90 will receive an 'A'; those between 80 and 90 will be assigned as 'B'; between 70 and 80 as 'C'; and below 70 as 'D'. Incomplete can be requested by students prior to taking the final exam for extraordinary circumstances that might arise during the course of the semester.

No late assignments will be accepted after the last week of classes (December 4). Assignments received after this time will receive a grade of zero (0).

Grade breakdown

A. Four (4) Minor Arguments: 25%
B. Two (2) Major/Extended Arguments with feedback: 35%
C. Nine (9) Blog reflections and four (4) Discussions: 25%
D. Four (4) Learning Activities: 15%

Course grade averages

A = 90% or more
B = 80 to 89.4%
C = 70 to 79.4%
D = 60 to 69.4%
F = Below 60%

3.0 EEO/ADA Statement

EEO/ADA: The University of North Texas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or disabled veteran status in its educational programs, activities, admissions, or employment policies. A copy of the College of Information ADA Compliance Document is available in the Dean’s Office in the Research Park. Please see me outside of class to make any arrangements involving special accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications by the 12th class day. (UNT Policy 16.001).
4.0 Academic Integrity

Students should conduct themselves as professionals-in-training. They should adhere to practices expected as scholars in the field. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses, which may be punished by any of the following:

1. failure on a paper
2. failure in the course, or
3. expulsion from the University of North Texas.

5.0 Online tools and technologies

The two main tools we will be using this semester are Zoom for online meetings and Canvas for course management.

5.1 Learning management system

Canvas LMS: http://canvas.instructure.com

5.2 Technological requirements of the course

In addition to the software and hardware requirements necessary to access Moodle, additional requirements are:

1. Java running on your local machine so that you can access:
2. Windows Media player or QuickTime with the .wmv format plug-in
3. You need to have a working email account.

6.0 Other

6.1 Academic Progress

Students are encouraged to discuss academic goals and degree completion with their instructors. Specific advising is available throughout the semester.

6.2 Incomplete Grade Information

The department complies with university policy regarding the assignment of an Incomplete Grade in any course. Please see http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/academic-record-incomplete.html (Links to an external site.) for information. Per UNT policy, a grade of Incomplete can only be awarded to a student who 1) is passing the course and
2) has a justifiable and documented reason, beyond the control of the student, for not completing the course work on schedule. Notification and submission of documentation must be provided to the instructor at the time of the emergency.

6.3 Syllabus Change Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus as necessary. Students will be notified of changes as/if they occur.