

# Course Syllabus



## ITLS5150/6150: eLearning: Trends and Issues

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Office	EDUC 209
Office Hours	By appointment
Class day/time	Asynchronous online
Location	Online

### 1. Course overview and objectives

e-Learning is defined as "learning facilitated and supported through the use of information and communications technology" (JISC), and is often used synonymously with terms such as online learning, distance learning, computer-based and web-based training, and mobile learning.

In this hands-on seminar-style online class we will examine topics such as teaching and learning online; online learning communities; e-learning platforms; gamification; e-assessment and e-portfolios; e-learning models and theories; moocs, informal learning, online education policy, online learning design principles, blended learning, and other topics of interest. Students will be responsible for selecting and presenting part of this content, applying e-learning principles acquired in class. Class activities include, creation and evaluation of online content, weekly readings, and lively online discussions. Students will work both individually and in groups.

The class will start out with an overview of online learning and online course design. Next we'll examine different issues and trends through the creation, presentation, and evaluation of course content (created as part of group assignments), and lively online discussions.

This class is intended for current and future educators, instructional designers, and learning scientists, and anyone else interested in this topic. No prior experience is required to enroll in this class. Assignments will be tailored to students' interest and ability levels.

After completing this course you will be able to:

- gain factual knowledge about online learning terminology, theories, methods, issues and trends
- locate and process information effectively to create and curate online content
- work effectively as a team to design and implement an online module
- assess the quality of online courses based on course quality rubrics; and apply quality criteria in course development

### 2. Course materials

There is no required textbook for this class. All other materials can be found on the online learning management system called Canvas: <http://canvas.usu.edu> (<http://canvas.usu.edu>) (login with your A# and password).

### 3. Assessment

This hands-on seminar-style class will start out with an overview of online learning, student requirements for online learning, and online course design. Once we all have a basic understanding about eLearning students will work together in groups to create instructional modules for the rest of the semester. Every week you are expected to participate in an online discussion about the topic for that week. Participation counts towards your course grade. Twice a semester you will evaluate an online learning module created by your peers. All these activities combined will give you a broad understanding about eLearning, what makes a good online learning experience, plus some practical skills on curating online content.

When participating in an online discussion, please start early in the week to facilitate a lively exchange of information during that week. Everyone posts once and

responds at least twice to other students. These posts and responses are part of your final grade. **Please realize that with your participation in this class you are contributing to your fellow students' learning as well as your own.** The main discussion post is due before midnight on Thursdays and your other responses need to be in before midnight on Sunday. Please check the discussion rubrics for details.

See also section 4.6 on grading.

#### 4. Course policies

##### 4.1 Our classroom

To make learning worthwhile for you and others in our ITLS5150/6150 learning community it is important that you actively engage with your fellow students, your teacher, and the materials presented both inside and outside of class.

A prerequisite to student learning is a classroom in which students feel comfortable. This comfort has to be achieved at multiple levels: students need to be comfortable with their peers and their professor and the material needs to be presented in a non-intimidating manner with an understanding of the students' existing expertise. Students are welcome to come to me with problems and questions and are always treated with respect. You can reach me through various channels of communication including email and in person. I encourage students to ask questions in class, email, or on Canvas and to take charge of their own learning.

In our classroom we do not harass or discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, veteran status, or marital or parental status; the presence of any sensory, physical or mental disability or handicap; nor for any other reason.

##### 4.2. The Honor System

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. The Honor System is designed to establish the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

The Honor Pledge: To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity." A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize.

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

(See Article VI of the student code (University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity) - <http://www.usu.edu/student-services/student-code/article6.cfm> (<http://www.usu.edu/student-services/student-code/article6.cfm>.)

##### 4.3. Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling. (See Article VI of the student code: <http://www.usu.edu/student-services/student-code/article6.cfm> (<http://www.usu.edu/student-services/student-code/article6.cfm>.)

Please note that Canvas has a new automated feature to detect plagiarism called [Turnitin](http://turnitin.com) (<http://turnitin.com>). Please also note that professors in the Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences Department are required to officially report ANY case of plagiarism, no exceptions.

##### 4.4. Sexual harassment

Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at 797-1266.

##### 4.5. Students with disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act states: "Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center (797-2444), preferably during the first week of the course. Any request for special consideration relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc., must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative format, large print, audio, diskette, or Braille."

##### 4.6. Grading

**Your consistent and active participation will be the key to doing well in this class.**

Your grade will be based on the university grading scale:

A	100-93%	A-	92-90%	B+	89-87%	B	86-83%
B-	82-80%	C+	79-77%	C	76-73%	C-	72-70%
D	69-60%	F	59-0%				

Please note that to earn an A- or A grade, the assignment must go beyond the minimum expected in terms of quality (e.g. insight, creativity, analysis, thoroughness, synthesis).

Without exception, plagiarized work results in an F and automatically revokes the opportunity to redo that assignment.

Assignments that are handed in past the due date cannot be redone. Late assignments will be marked down.

All assignments need to be submitted through Canvas Assignments or they will not be accepted.

Assignments that clearly do not follow directions are returned without review.

Final assignments cannot be redone due to time constraints. Final assignment drafts are accepted for review until one week before the final assignment deadline. Plan ahead!

If you wish to discuss a grade, hand in a written explanation of your argument and arrange for a private meeting. Except for unusual circumstances, no appeal for an individual assignment or project will be considered more than two weeks after the grade has been posted.

The following course components will contribute to your grade:

Assignments	5150	6150	Due dates-before midnight on:
Weekly Discussions	40%	35%	Varying dates
Peer Course Evaluation (2)	15%	15%	Varying dates
Online Course Module Development (ITLS5150 (1); ITLS6150 (2))	40%	45%	Varying dates
Team Assessment (2)	5%	5%	Varying dates

**NOTE that: Canvas does not calculate your final grade correctly because grades are calculated differently for ITLS5150 than ITLS6150. Use the percentages above to calculate your final grade. Canvas is set up to calculate grades for ITLS6150.**

#### 4.7. Absence from class

Students are responsible for attending class every week. For online students this means being online using Canvas every week. If students cannot attend class (or go online) they are required to notify the instructor ahead of time of their expected absence. Note that not being online will negatively impact your course grade unless arrangements have been made ahead of time.

#### 4.8. Withdrawals and incompletes

USU students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

#### 4.9. Grievance process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated [in matters other than (i) discipline or (ii) admission, residency, employment, traffic, and parking - which are addressed by procedures separate and independent from the Student Code] may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in Article VII in the Student Code: <http://www.usu.edu/student-services/student-code/article7.cfm> . (<http://www.usu.edu/student-services/student-code/article7.cfm>) .

### 5. Course schedule

Note: the course schedule is subject to change, that is, it is a plan rather than a contract. You will be notified in Canvas about any changes to the schedule or existing content.

The course schedule is incorporated into [the Modules page \(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/modules\)](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/modules) where you can find our weekly topics and what assignments are due.

### 6. Course assignments

Date	Details	
Sun Jan 11, 2015	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810502">Student Introductions (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810502)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810499">Week 1 Discussion: eLearning (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810499)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 18, 2015	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810523">Week 2 Discussion: Informed Learning &amp; Content Curation (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810523)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 25, 2015	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810489">Week 3 Discussion: Conversations in eLearning Research (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810489)</a>	due by 11:59pm

Sun Feb 1, 2015	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810533">Online Course Module Development 1</a> <a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810533">(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810533)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810524">Week 4 Discussion: Online Course Design Best Practices</a> <a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810524">(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810524)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 8, 2015	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810522">Week 5 Discussion: Student Readiness</a> <a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810522">(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810522)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 15, 2015	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810531">Peer Course Module Evaluation 1</a> <a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810531">(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810531)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810513">Week 6 Discussion eLearning theory or model analysis</a> <a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810513">(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810513)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 22, 2015	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810532">Peer Course Module Evaluation 2</a> <a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810532">(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810532)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1821547">Team Assessment 1 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1821547)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 6, 2015	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810534">Online Course Module Development 2</a> <a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810534">(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1810534)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 19, 2015	<a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1821596">Team Assessment 2 (https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1821596)</a>  <a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1821508">Weekly discussions to be created by students</a> <a href="https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1821508">(https://usu.instructure.com/courses/361905/assignments/1821508)</a>	due by 11:59pm

[View Progress](#)

[+ Module](#)

☰ **Week 1: Monday January 5 - Sunday January 11 : Course Introduction** ✓



☰ [Introduction](#) ✓



☰ [Student Introductions](#)

Jan 11 10 pts



☰ [Week 1 Discussion: eLearning](#)

Jan 11 10 pts



☰ **Week 2: Monday January 12 - Sunday January 18 : Informed Learning and Content Curation** ✓



☰ [Informed Learning and Content Curation](#) ✓



☰ [Week 2 Discussion: Informed Learning & Content Curation](#)

Jan 18 10 pts



☰ **Week 3: Monday January 19 - Sunday January 25 : eLearning Research** ✓



☰ [eLearningResearch](#) ✓



☰ [Week 3 Discussion: Conversations in eLearning Research](#)

Jan 25 10 pts



☰ **Week 4: Monday January 26 - Sunday February 1 : Online Course Development** ✓



☰ [Development-and-design](#) ✓



☰ [Week 4 Discussion: Online Course Design Best Practices](#)

Feb 1 10 pts



☰ **Week 5: Monday February 2 - Sunday February 8 : Student Readiness for Online Learning** ✓



☰ [Student readiness](#) ✓



☰ [Week 5 Discussion: Student Readiness](#)

Feb 8 10 pts



▼ **Week 6: Monday February 9 - Sunday February 15 : Theories, Concepts, and Models of Online Learning**



☰ [Theories\\_concepts\\_models](#)



☰ [Week 6 Discussion eLearning theory or model analysis](#)

Feb 15 10 pts



▼ **Week 7: Monday February 16 - Sunday February 22 : The political and economic contexts of online learning**



☰ [PoliticalEconomicContext](#)



▼ **Week 8: Monday February 23 - Sunday March 1 : The online learner**



☰ [Week8-page](#)



▼ **Week 9: Monday March 2 - Sunday March 8 : Online learning communities**



☰ [Week9-page](#)



▼ **Week 10: Monday March 9 - Sunday March 15 : SPRING BREAK**



☰ [USU Academic Calendar](#)



▼ **Week 11: Monday March 16 - March 22 : Online learning assessment**



☰ [student\\_assessment](#)



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▼ **Week 12: Monday March 23 - Sunday March 29 : The Technological Context of Online Learning**   

☰ [eLearningTechnology](#)



☰ ▼ **Week 13: Monday March 30 - Sunday April 5 : Online Learning in the K-12 Environment**   

☰ [eLearning-in-K-12](#)



☰ ▼ **Week 14: Monday April 6 - Sunday April 12 : Online Learning in the Higher Education Setting**   

☰ [eLearning\\_in\\_Higher\\_Ed](#)



☰ ▼ **Week 15: Monday April 13 - Sunday April 19 : Online Learning in the Corporate and Professional Setting**   

☰ [eLearning-in-corporate](#)



☰ ▼ **Week 16: Monday April 20 - Sunday April 26 : The Future of Online Learning**   

☰ [Future-of-online-learning](#)



☰ ▼ **Week 17: Monday April 27 - Sunday May 3 : FINALS WEEK**   

☰ [USU Academic Calendar](#)

