

Online Learning Design for Educators

Macquarie University

Module 1

The evolution of online course design

This week we will discuss and review the evolution of online course design. Advancements in technology have fundamentally changed the way learners can study. Students and learners can now choose from a range of course model types and most current course models have an online learning component. It is expected that online learning will continue to grow in popularity as more and more students gain access to the internet throughout the world.

5 videos, 9 readings

1. **Video:** [Welcome to Online education: The foundations of online teaching](#)
2. **Reading:** Welcome to Online education: The foundations of online teaching
3. **Reading:** Welcome to Country
4. **Reading:** Course overview
5. **Discussion Prompt:** Introduce yourself
6. **Video:** Week 1 overview
7. **Reading:** Bio of video subject matter expert - Professor Matt Bower
8. **Video:** The TPACK framework
9. **Video:** Synchronous versus asynchronous learning
10. **Reading:** Modalities of online learning
11. **Reading:** Podcast | Subject matter expert - Professor Ronika Power
12. **Video:** Podcast | What is the hyflex model of teaching?
13. **Reading:** Week 1 Challenge exercise| Exploring course models

Module 2

Delivering effective online content

Welcome to Week 2! This week you will explore the key concept of transactional distance, a phrase coined by Michael Moore in 1998. Being physically distant from your students presents a number of challenges but building on online presence can reduce some of these issues. We will also explore three key concepts related to Moore's early work developed by Garrison, Anderson and Archer (2000), and built into their Critical Community of Inquiry Model. The concepts are 1) teacher presence, 2) social presence and 3) cognitive presence. These three concepts inform teacher

behaviours and learning design characteristics that are crucial to the successful delivery and online learning experience of students.

Show less

4 videos, 6 readings

1. **Video:** [Week 2 overview](#)
2. **Reading:** Bio of video subject matter expert - Professor Garry Falloon
3. **Video:** Transactional distance
4. **Video:** Community of Inquiry
5. **Reading:** Minimizing transactional distance in online learning
6. **Reading:** Podcast | Subject matter expert - Grazia Scotellaro
7. **Video:** Podcast | Education, technology and the benefits of moving outside your comfort zone as an educator, with Grazia Scotellaro
8. **Reading:** Week 2 Challenge exercise | Understanding transactional distance and empathizing with your learners

Module 3

Building the digital learning skills of your learners

Welcome to Week 3! This week we will examine the concept of cognitive load. As educators, we need to be mindful that cognitive load pressures can adversely affect our student's ability to learn. So, this week we will explore some practical tips and techniques to prevent cognitive overload. We will also discuss the importance of creating a supportive, inclusive and welcoming online learning environment and will show you some practical tips and techniques to set up your online course where your students can thrive.

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4 videos, 6 readings

1. **Video:** [Week 3 overview](#)
2. **Reading:** Bio of video subject matter expert - Associate Professor Agnes Bosanquet
3. **Video:** Managing cognitive load
4. **Video:** Nurturing your student's learning journey
5. **Reading:** Tried and tested: tips for online teaching
6. **Reading:** Podcast | Subject matter expert - Dr Kelly Johnston
7. **Video:** Podcast | What can 'hands on learning' look like in an online space?
8. **Reading:** Week 3 Challenge exercise | Improving the learner experience

Module 4

Building online learning communities

Welcome to Week 4! This week we will define the term 'learning community', then learn how to create a learning community using online discussion forums. Research tells us that meaningful, inclusive and supportive learning communities help students feel a sense of belonging. This sense of belonging can support deep learning and as a result improve student performance. As you will learn this week, discussion forums are popular tools that online educators can use to build learning effective learning communities of their very own.

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5 videos, 6 readings

1. **Video:** [Week 4 overview](#)
2. **Reading:** Bio of video subject matter expert - Dr Shazia K Jan
3. **Video:** The foundations of online learning communities
4. **Video:** Designing online discussion forums
5. **Reading:** Facilitating effective online discussion forums
6. **Reading:** Podcast | Subject matter expert - Associate Professor Panos Vlachopoulos
7. **Video:** Podcast | Creating connection in a virtual learning space
8. **Video:** Podcast | Is Team-Based Learning (TBL) online effective?
9. **Reading:** Week 4 Challenge exercise | Design your own online discussion forum

Module 5

The future of online learning

Welcome to Week 5! This week we look forward and explore the question, what will happen next in online education? We will investigate emerging technologies such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence, and discuss their potential impact on the online education sector. We will finish this course discussing the importance for every online educator to continuously upskill and improve their skills in online teaching. We will give you some practical tips and help you to create your own future online teaching professional development action plan.

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4 videos, 6 readings

1. **Video:** [Week 5 overview](#)
2. **Video:** Understanding the importance of maintaining currency
3. **Video:** The future of online learning

4. **Reading:** Teaching in the digital age
5. **Reading:** Podcast | Subject matter expert - Michael Rampe
6. **Video:** Podcast | Trends in technology, software and education
7. **Reading:** Week 5 Challenge exercise| Lifelong learning