

**LTEC 6040: Theory and Practice of Distributed Learning**

Department of Learning Technologies, Discovery Park
3940 N. Elm St., Office G150, Denton, TX 76207-7102

Course Description: Study of theory and practice of distance education and its application to the planning, development, utilization and evaluation of distance education systems in educational environments. Various distance education systems will be investigated.

Purpose: This course covers issues related to the theory, research, and developmental models used for developing distributed learning in educational settings. What is distributed learning? Distributed learning is a general term used to describe a multimedia method of instructional delivery that includes a mix of Web-based instruction, streaming video conferencing, face-to-face classroom time, distance learning through television or video, or other combinations of electronic and traditional educational models. [Course Author: Dr. Scott Warren]

Instructor Contact Info

Laura A. Pasquini, Ph.D.

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Course Goals: Each of these course goals is provided in the language of LTCA theory and is geared towards using communicative actions to improve learning. Learners will be able to:

1. Communicate and defend their understanding of distance/online learning to peers and instructor
2. Identify a particular topic related to online learning/teaching and communicate their understanding both individually and in group settings
3. Employ their shared, constructed knowledge of the research and theory related to online learning to develop a small-scale research project
4. Develop a coherent understanding of their personal identity as an instructor who may design or teach online as it evolves over the course of the semester
5. Collaborate and communicate effectively in a group to develop and construct a shared understanding about online teaching and learning.
6. Construct knowledge, and develop a clear understanding of both the affordances and challenges of online learning and teaching
7. Construct defensible, evidence and logic-based knowledge constructions regarding their distance learning study and associated literature/research findings.
8. Develop group norms regarding respectful and effective, respectful, and constructive critique of individual, peer learner understandings
9. Engage in discourses about employed technologies for online learning.
10. Assess appropriate use of *strategic/directive* communications as a means of improving the efficiency of knowledge construction and learning

Required Reading

There are NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS for this course. Much of the required readings will be from articles I provide or you locate. Here are a few books I recommend as a resource if you are teaching in online and/or blended learning environments regularly:

- Veletsianos, G. (2016). *Emergence and innovation in digital learning: Foundations and applications*. Edmonton, AB: Athabasca University Press. [Open Access] Retrieved from <http://www.aupress.ca/index.php/books/120258>
- Bates, A. W., (2015). *Teaching in a digital age: Guidelines for designing teaching and learning*. Open Text BC. Retrieved from <https://opentextbc.ca/teachinginadigitalage/>
- Moore, M., & Kearsley, G. (2011). *Distance education: A systems view of online learning*, 3rd Edition, ISBN-10: 1111520992.
- Bonk, C., & Zhang, (2008). *Empowering online learning: 100+ activities for reading, reflecting, displaying, and doing*, ISBN-10: 0787988049.

COURSE MEETINGS

This is a residential doctoral course, so we will be meeting face-to-face on **Monday evenings from 6-8:50 pm CDT at UNT Discovery Park during the Spring 2018 semester**. These in-person meetings will be scheduled, per the Class Schedule. This schedule MAY be subject to change, and will be discussed during our first class meeting in room D215.

Attendance and Participation

You will be expected to attend ALL scheduled class meetings unless some form of emergency arises. If possible, contact me prior to class by e-mail OR text message to let me know if you are unable to attend. In-person class attendance counts as **20%** of your final grade; which means if you don't show up, you are not eligible for an 'A' letter grade. If you miss FOUR class meetings, you will be dropped from the course with no warning. Activities in class are intended to help you learn the subject matter better. It is important that you participate in these in-person meetings because these discussions will impact your grade and overall knowledge of the subject material.

Full participation includes web-based and in-class activities/discussions. If there is an issue, questions, or concern about participation in the LTEC 6040 course, it is the students' responsibility to contact the instructor and communicate these issues directly with the instructor of the LTEC 6040 course. **If a student has not attended a course meeting before the Census Day (January 29, 2018 for Regular Session Spring 2018 classes) outlined by the UNT Academic Spring 2018 Calendar, they may be dropped for non-attendance.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All course information and materials will be maintained in UNT Blackboard Learn. **NOTE: The syllabus and course due dates are subject to revision by the instructor** throughout the semester. Students will be notified promptly of any changes via weekly class meetings and/or course announcements. **For LTEC 6040 assignments/requirements, please contact via EMAIL IN ADVANCE of the deadline OR schedule time to meet.**

Readings

Most of the readings will be online as you need them, but we do not have much assigned. Once we are well into the course, you will be expected to locate some of the articles listed in the weekly readings. The purpose of this activity is to get you acquainted with scholarly search and familiar with utilizing UNT online library resources to hone your literature search skills. The expectation in this course is to dedicate 3 hours of in-class time and approximately 2 to 3 hours of additional work beyond the class assignments, mostly focused reading literature and working with your peer groups. Weekly time requirements will vary throughout the semester.

Grades: Grades will be determined as follows:

- Task One: Personal Online Learning Theory - 15%
- Task Two: Literature Review- 20%
- Task Three: Final Article Draft - 30%
- Attendance/Participation/In-class Activities - 20%
- Blogs – 15%

Late Assignment Policy

Late work is not accepted and will receive a zero (0) grade. This policy will be adhered to throughout the semester to be both fair and consistent with all LTEC 6040 learners. Please organize your schedule and plan for deadlines in advance. **ALL assignments must be submitted by 11:59 pm CST on the date it is due via the Blackboard Learn Assignment Tool.**

MEDICAL/HEALTH EMERGENCIES

If you have a medical emergency that will prevent you from completing this online course as scheduled, you **MUST notify your instructor at the time of your medical problem or related family health/life circumstances. Doctor's notes must be received during week 1 or 2 of the medical/health emergency, and documentation is required for any death in the family.** Those submitted at the end or once it is over will not be accepted. If you have a **temporary health/medical issue that might last longer than a week, it is suggested you reach out to the Office for Disability Accommodation to get support** for this and/or your additional courses for the semester. **It is critical to COMMUNICATE with your professor early & often.**

Student Support Online

The UNT Helpdesk is a student technical support team dedicated to deal with issues or technical needs (e.g. Blackboard Learn) if you should encounter any issues online at ANY point during the duration of this course. Please be sure to CONTACT the [UNT Helpdesk](#) support team for **any student technical support issues and questions:**

Phone: 940.565-2324 **Email:** helpdesk@unt.edu **Website:** <https://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/>

Academic Advising and Personal Support

There are a number of academic resources and support at UNT for academic success.

Writing Skills: Students will compose grammatically correct sentences, write well-developed paragraphs, and express ideas in a well-organized, coherent matter. Submissions must have complete sentences, correct punctuation, and capitalization. Consider getting support for this course with your writing at the **UNT Writing Lab** (<http://writinglab.unt.edu/>) and/or **UNT Career Center** (<http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>).

For students who have questions about academic planning, need to drop one or all courses, or learn more about academic dates and deadlines, please be sure to speak with your [academic advisor/counselor](#) and consult the following UNT resources for planning and guidance:

- Counseling Services: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-testing-services>
- How to drop a class <http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class>
- Incomplete (I) grades: <http://registrar.unt.edu/grades/incompletes>
- Withdrawals: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/withdrawals>
- Dean of Students Policies <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/policies>

Week	Course Assignments	Dates
	REVIEW: LTEC 6040 Course Syllabus	22-Jan
	COMPLETE: LTEC 6040 Student Information Form	22-Jan
1	Week 1: Why and What is Online Education	22-Jan
2	Week 2: Learning Online: How and Why?	29-Jan
3	Week 3: What Does the Research Say?	5-Feb
4	Week 4: Teaching in Online Settings	12-Feb
5	Week 5: Teaching Online Continued	19-Feb
6	Week 6: Theories of Online Learning	26-Feb
7	Week 7: Learning Management Systems	5-Mar
8	Week 8: Spring Break (March 12-16, 2018); No Class Meeting	12-Mar
9	Week 9: Designing Online Instruction	19-Mar
10	Week 10: Designing Online Instruction (Continued)	26-Mar
11	Week 11: Researching Online Learning and Teaching	2-Apr
12	Week 12: Emerging Tools – Open Source and Social Media	9-Apr
13	Week 13: Emerging Tools – Games and Virtual Worlds	16-Apr
14	Week 14: Emerging Tools – MOOCs and Mobile	23-Apr
15	Week 15: No Class Meeting [Work on Article Draft]	30-Apr
16	Article Draft Due	7-May
	UNT SPOT Course Evaluations	3-May
	LTEC 6040 Course Feedback Form	3-May
	UNT Final Exams (NO Final Exam for LTEC 6040)	May 5-11
TOTAL	A = 90% or more; B = 80-89.4%; C = 70-79.4% D = 60-69.4%; F = Below 60%	

UNT Academic Deadlines posted on [UNT Office of the Registrar](http://registrar.unt.edu) website. Review **Spring 2018** Registration Guide: <http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide>

Academic Integrity

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline provides penalties for misconduct by students, including academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

Scholarly Expectations

Student Conduct and Academic Integrity:

All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level. For more information on academic dishonesty, please also refer to your current Graduate Catalog.

You are encouraged to become familiar with the university's Student Standards of Academic Integrity policy:

http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf

Of particular interest are the following terms:

- **Cheating** – intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- **Plagiarism** – the deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, or statements of another person as one's own without acknowledgement.
- **Fabrication** – intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- **Facilitating academic dishonesty** – intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic integrity.

Copyright Notice:

Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located at: <http://copyright.unt.edu/content/unt-copyright-policies>

UNT Policies

Student Conduct and Discipline:

You are encouraged to become familiar with the University Student Code of Conduct maintained by the Dean of Students in the Office of Student Affairs:

<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

University Policy of Disability Accommodations

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

ADA Statement: **The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course.** *You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Please Contact the UNT Office of Disability Accommodation (<https://disability.unt.edu/>) for questions, concerns, or support you may contact the ODA office by phone at 940.565.4323 or in person (SAGE 167).*