

Design for Learning in Adult Education Syllabus

Instructor

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description

In adult education ministries, instead of measuring the success of our bible-studies, adult forums, and faith formation classes by the number of people that attended or by how loudly they clapped at the end; what if we measured the success of those adult education programs by the knowledge and skills the participants gained? It is possible to design for, and measure learning; in this course we will help you do it. Through the practices of Backward Design, we will help you design learning experiences that will help your adult participants grow in their knowledge and skill. This course is designed for: pastors, education directors, or anyone designing or leading classes and learning experiences for adults.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

1. Be able to use Backward Design to design classes and learning activities.
2. Design learning activities for a variety of participants in a variety of environments.
3. Complete a design and course plan for a course that you want to teach in your congregation or ministry setting.

Assessments

Design a Learning Experience

The major project in this course will be for you to design a learning experience for adults that you intend to lead in your congregation or ministry. Using the Backward Design methodology, you will create a syllabus for your learning experience that incorporates learner centered design principles. The result of this project will be a complete syllabus that you can use as the framework to lead your learning experience. In addition to your syllabus, you will discuss how you would adapt this syllabus for this learning experience to be taught in a different format or environment.

I have posted a draft [rubric for this assignment](#) which specifies the criteria that your syllabus should include. As a class we will refine the rubric to finalize the criteria that will be used for grading. The goal of the rubric is to make the expectations of the assignment clear and specific so we all understand what quality work looks like. It is also designed to be a tool to help you identify items and issues in your syllabus as you build it. The learning activities in this course are intended to help you accomplish all of the expectations outlined in the rubric.

For each of the criteria, you will be responsible for measuring and marking your own progress and for making comments on other students' syllabi. Your syllabi will be evaluated by the instructor using our rubric and you will receive comments from the instructor. By successfully completing this assignment, you will meet outcomes 1, 2, and 3.

Schedule Overview

Pre-work - To be completed prior to June 11

This section of the course consists of online study where you will read from assigned texts, watch videos from the instructor, and will prepare a first draft of a syllabus for a course that you intend to teach in your ministry setting. You will work through these units at your own pace, but will need to complete all pre-work units and create a first-draft of your syllabus prior to June 11. Detailed instructions and the content for the pre-work units will be placed on the course website in MyLutherNet.

Syllabus Workshop - June 11-15

During this week, you will participate in a syllabus workshop - working with the instructor and other students to practice Backwards Design principles to refine the syllabi for your course. You will be expected to participate in one of the conference call groups during a 1 hour conference call each day.

- **Conference Call Group 1** (11:00am - 12:00pm Central Time)
- **Conference Call Group 2** (1:30pm - 2:30pm Central Time)

You will also be expected to make online comments on your fellow students' work and to edit and refine your own course designs each day of the workshop. Detailed instructions for participating in the workshop will be placed on the course website.

Grading & Degree Credit

This course will be graded Pass/Fail. To receive a Pass grade, you are expected to complete the self-study units, complete the learning experience design assignment - fully meeting the criteria outlined in the rubric, and to participate fully in the syllabus workshop. This course may be taken for Luther Seminary degree course credit. If you are interested in this option, please contact me.

Required Texts

- [*Creating Significant Learning Experiences*](#); Fink, L. Dee, © 2003.

Recommended Texts

- [*Understanding by Design. Expanded 2nd Edition*](#); Wiggins, Grant and McTighe, Jay; © 2005.

Required Technology

- Access to a computer and a high-speed internet connection (not dial-up).
- Access to a telephone.
- [A Google Docs account](#). (We will share syllabi as online Google Docs. We will provide help in creating and using Google Docs in case you haven't used it before.)

Technology Help Desk

Help is available through the Luther Seminary Help Desk. If you contact the help desk, please mention that you are participating in a Kairos course.

Contact

helpdesk@luthersem.edu

651-641-3462

Day Hours

Monday - Friday: 8am-5pm

Extended Hours

Monday - Thursday: 5-9:30pm

Friday: 5-7:30pm

Saturday: 9:30am - 6:30pm

Sunday: 2-7pm

Confidentiality in online courses

The online community that develops during an online course depends on the assumption that what is discussed within the confines of the course will stay within the course. This includes all full class discussions and small group discussions in MyLutherNet.

Unless permission has been granted, it is never appropriate to copy someone's discussion post and send it to someone who is not registered for the course. Nor is it appropriate to copy someone's discussion post and claim it as your own.