



IDN 532 Design & Development of Online Learning	
Professor: Kristen Bourgault (Kristen.bourgault@quinnipiac.edu)	Summer 2025

Course Description

What does it take to design a compelling online learning experience, one that engages students and supports them in constructing new understandings? This course examines current approaches to planning, development, and implementation of online learning in a variety of contexts. Students will explore the impact of structure, multimedia, community, and presence on the overall quality and efficacy of online learning. Evidence-based practices will be used to design and develop an online lesson or “module” with all essential components necessary for a successful learning experience.

Course Outcomes

At the completion of the course students will be able to:

- Apply learning theory to the design of online courses;
- Develop content and learning activities for a learning module;
- Select and use appropriate technology tools for given learning goals;
- Leverage effective design strategies to increase learner engagement;
- Utilize a learning management system to host an online module

Course Format

This is a fully online course which will run for 12 weeks and contains 12 learning modules. We will engage in one module per week. Each week will begin on a Monday, and end on the following Sunday. The modules will be available the Friday before the week starts. All deadlines for assignments are provided within the discussion and assignment instructions. You should plan to spend approximately 7-10 hours each week on this course.

Required Texts

Small Teaching Online: Applying Learning Science in Online Classes (2019)
By Flower Darby, with James M. Lang

Learning Activities

Reading and Writing

The assigned reading is an essential requirement for the course and will allow you to firmly attach yourself to the content for the week. You will be required to either respond to the reading in a journal assignment or in the discussion forum. The journal will be a correspondence between the instructor and the student. The discussion will be a forum for all to participate. In discussions, you will be asked to respond to the initial prompt or question **by Thursday**. You are then required to respond to another classmate's post **by Sunday**.

Experiential Project

In this course you will design, develop and build an online learning module. You will work on elements of this module throughout the course. It will be progressive--adding content each week. The final rollout will include all previously submitted elements as a complete and comprehensive learning module. Your classmates will then review your course and provide feedback in our final activity, the Gallery Walk.

Practice with Technology Tools

This course will require you to utilize various technology tools to complete your assignments and communicate with your classmates. You will also be required to upload content to a learning management system for your final project. It is understood that the comfort level with technology tools varies and you will be marked on the quality of your work not on technology proficiency. If you need assistance with any of the tools, be sure to post questions to the Q and A Forum.

Participation Guidelines

Communication with the Instructor

I will respond to direct email within 24 hours of receipt, but please keep in mind I do not check or respond to email on Saturdays! If you have a question that would be relevant to your classmates, please post it to the Q and A Forum on the Discussion Board. If you have specific questions that can only be answered by the instructor, please email me directly.

Online Etiquette

In the online environment, it is expected that you communicate in a manner that is both academic and respectful of others. Use respectful language and tones when communicating with other students and the instructor. Also, observe common rules of grammar and punctuation. Communicate in a clear and succinct manner maintaining the level of academic integrity expected in a face- to-face course. If you are not familiar with "netiquette" please review [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#).

Engagement with External Tools

Your enrollment in this class assumes that you are consenting to involvement with outside entities in the pursuit of educational interests. These may include social media, websites, blogs, discussion groups, virtual communities, online academic databases and learning platforms. Should these resources require login and passwords, do not use personal identification information such as your student ID or social security number.

Final Course Projects

Throughout this course, you will develop an online learning module. You will be given access to a learning management system, where you will add elements to this learning module as part of your assignments. In addition to a completed learning module, you will also develop an Online Design Toolkit. This toolkit will demonstrate your understanding of the process necessary to develop a fully online course.

Grading Guidelines

Course Engagement	
4 Padlet Videos (20 points each)	80
5 Discussions (20 points each)	100
4 Reading Reflections (25 points each)	100
Online Learning Module	
First Post: Module Outcome	30
Microlecture	60
Community Activity	40
Add Your Presence	40
Formative Assessment	40
Summative Assessment	30
Online Design Toolkit	
Learner Characteristics Template	50
Module Blueprint	50
3 Tools Toolkit	60
Quality Checklist	60
Final Submissions	
Complete Online Module	120
Complete Online Toolkit	100
Gallery Walk Reflections	40
Total Points Available	1000

Grading System

Letter Grade	Points Earned
A	930 - 1000
A-	900 - 929
B+	870 – 899
B	830 - 869
B-	800 - 829
C+	770 - 799
C	730 - 769
C-	700 – 729
D	600 - 699
F	0 - 599

Grading

Reading reflections, discussions and graded assignments will be marked with feedback within a week of receipt. All assignment grades can be accessed by clicking “Grades” on the course menu.

IDN 532 Module Schedule

	Week Of...	Topic
1	May 19 – May 25	Efficacy of Online Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Padlet: Introduction • Reading Reflection • Discussion: Best & Worst
2	May 26 – June 1	Who Learns Online? And how? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Reflection • Toolkit: Learner Characteristics Template
3	June 2 – June 8	Centering & Consistency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Module Outcomes • Toolkit: Module Blueprint
4	June 9 – June 15	The Learning Management System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: LMS • Module: First Post
5	June 16 – June 22	Affordances of Being Online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Padlet: Making Connections • Toolkit: 3 Tools
6	June 23 – June 29	The Role of Multimedia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Analysis of a Microlecture • Module: Microlecture
7	June 30 – July 6	Building Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Community • Module: Community Activity
8	July 7 – July 13	Fostering Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Reflection • Toolkit: Quality Checklist
9	July 14 – July 20	Humanizing the Online Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Padlet: Instructor Presence • Module: Your Presence
10	July 21 – July 27	Formative Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Reflection • Module: Formative Assessment
11	July 28 – August 3	Summative Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module: Summative Assessment • Final Learning Module
12	August 4 – August 10	The Power of Reflection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Your Final Design Toolkit • Complete a Gallery Walk • Final Reflection