

ED 200 Introduction to Educational Technology

Mike Taber
389-6026 (office)
mike.taber@ColoradoCollege.edu
Office hours: by appointment via email

General

Research indicates that educational technologies are inappropriately used in many elementary and secondary classrooms. Much of this problem comes from the manner in which many teachers view technology's role. Traditionally, educational technology plays the role of a "substitute" in class instruction; i.e. substituting a power point presentation for overhead transparencies. However, the "substitute paradigm" greatly underestimates the power of these educational tools (e.g. digital thermometer vs. alcohol), as they are becoming ever more affordable, useful, and capable. The strength of educational technology stems from its ability, when appropriately integrated into instruction, to support, augment, and enhance classroom teaching and learning. Consequently, this course will both implicitly and explicitly encourage you to think critically about the role of educational technology in classroom instruction.

During this course, you will be exposed to a variety of educational technologies. The examined technologies were chosen due to their wide use in many school districts, but more importantly, the technologies are chosen to foster critical thinking on your part.

The course will meet from 3:30 PM to 5 PM on Wednesdays, except for the Wednesday of Block Break. Occasionally, we will not meet in lieu of project work time. Additional time will be arranged if extra help is needed to learn a new technology. Classes will generally meet in Mierow, although we may occasionally meet in various labs on campus. (Notification for any change in meeting place will be sent via email.)

Course Materials

Many of the technologies used in this course generate "products" that require large amounts of disk space (2.0 MB or more). Consequently, students must know how to access their personal "H drives." You may also use an USB drive, provided the drive has large enough space to hold your course project. If you do not know how to access your "H drive", please contact the technology help desk at X 6449 for the latest protocols.

Competencies

You will need to demonstrate basic competencies regarding some software. In some cases, you will need to demonstrate your competency. Specific details regarding the competencies will be addressed during class.

Absenteeism

If you must miss a class meeting (sports, field trip, etc.), please notify Mike (via email) prior to the absence so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Course Projects

Course projects are designed to be useful, having practical applications to your future classroom. Therefore, when selecting topics / concepts for the projects, please keep in mind future teaching assignments. Students are encouraged to modify and/or build upon lessons designed previously and not necessarily reinvent the wheel. Also, students should select areas/subjects that are of interest.

There are two major projects for this course:

- 1) Written critique on educational courseware, software, or website **Due: Wednesday, March 7**. Details regarding criteria for conducting critique will be address early in the course.
- 2) Construction of a Website that provides examples of effective educational technology. Theme or topics represented are up to you. Details regarding the creation of the website using the free CC Web Space will be provided. **Due: May 9**.

Grading

Course grades are generated from two equally weighted complete projects. Attendance and contribution to discussion are also major factors in determining grades.

Colorado Performance Standards

This course meets all competencies for teacher licensure regarding Standard Seven: Knowledge of Technology -- 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, and 7.5

Please ask for help during this course if you need it. I am looking forward to an enjoyable learning experience!

Introduction to Educational Technology Course Projects

Course projects are designed to be useful, having practical applications to your future classroom.

There are three major projects for this course:

1. Written Courseware/software/website *critiques* or *previews*- **Due: Monday, March 13**
2. Construction of a Website: free CC Web Space at: **Due: Monday, April 3**
<http://helpdesk.coloradocollege.edu/policies/wirelesspolicy.htm>
3. Multimedia Media Project **Due: Monday, April 17**

The rubric (criteria for evaluation) for each assignment will be distributed soon.

General Explanation of Projects

Written Courseware / Internet Previews:

You are required to identify and evaluate three pieces of educational software or interactive Internet locations/sites (e.g. SciLinks). Generally speaking, we are looking for 1) alignment with current learning theories, 2) congruence with effective teaching strategies, 3) developmental appropriateness, and 4) applicability to an actual classroom setting.

Website Construction:

This project is open-ended like the multimedia project. The website could be; 1) an on-line lesson(s), 2) an informational site that benefits parents and students, 3) an electronic portfolio, 4) student/instructor negotiated idea. The website must minimally include the following:

- 1) at least 3 pages
- 2) appropriate graphics/mpegs and narrative
- 3) hyperlinks that work

In addition, the website is expected to be easily navigated and visually pleasing.

Multimedia Project:

This project, like the Website Construction, is a bit open ended. The purpose of this project is to become familiar with Mac G-5 video editing software and digital video cameras. The focus of this project is up to you. The general guidelines for the project are as follows:

- 1) creation of the video/ I-movie that must be at least 5 minutes in length,
- 2) the video must incorporate proper uses of effects (e.g. title, closing credits, transitions, etc)
- 3) the video/ I-movie must include evidence of sound editing (e.g. lowering background noise, incorporating music, using voice over techniques, etc). **STORE YOUR WORK ON MIEROW HARD DRIVES.**