Welcome to

AHED 765 Distance Learning Spring 2018

Dear Students:

Are you interested in learning about the benefits of distance learning, the different technologies used in distance learning, what is involved in putting distance courses together, characteristics of the most successful distance teachers and students, and how to manage a distance program? Then this course is for you! You will have the chance to research a specific area of interest involving distance learning as well as to begin designing a distance course on a subject of interest to you. You will walk away with a comprehensive perspective of distance learning and some of the issues involved in this rapidly changing field.

The textbooks for this course are:


Textbooks are available through Barnes & Noble at USD. You can purchase them in person or contact them at bn@usd.edu to place your order. They can also be reached at 605-677-6291. They will need to know the course number and name. Mail orders are shipped UPS and should arrive within three days. Books may also be available at Amazon, but keep in mind that they may take longer to arrive. If you do not receive your books within 10 days of the beginning of the course, please let me know.

We will use primarily Desire2Learn as the course management software for this course. We will be having Discussions every week. The real-time web-conferencing system Collaborate Ultra will be used for **two live meetings**. Please see the Syllabus for the time and dates for these sessions. This software can be used from any PC and Internet connection and is available from the D2L Home Page (click on Communications/Collaborate Ultra). You will need speakers or a headset. A microphone...
is preferred but is not essential. If you are unable to attend, you will be able to view a recording and comment on it on D2L.

Once you enter the course please review the Home page and the Syllabus. Additional information appears in the Content area. Then go into D2L Discussions and introduce yourself.

Typical time requirements for this course per week are:

- 3 hours readings
- At least 2 hours per week actively participating in D2L discussions
- 2 hours for Collaborate Ultra sessions
- Time for written assignments (as needed) – for example, allow several hours per assignment per week a few weeks before an assignment is due

You should schedule time weekly for active participation. The instructor answers email, M-F, within 48 hours. She returns papers with comments and a grade within two weeks in the Dropbox. If you wish to meet with the instructor, please make an appointment by email. She is available in person, by phone, or through Collaborate Ultra.

For information about USD’s technical, academic, and student support services, as well as how to take advantage of these services, please refer to the CE Online Student Orientation guide at http://www.usd.edu/-/media/files/USD-online/online-orientation-guide.ashx. This document also contains important information pertaining to minimum technology requirements, registration information, as well as other university services and policies. If you have any technical difficulties, please contact the USD HelpDesk at 605-677-5028 or 877-225-0027.

I look forward to having you as students and getting to know you! If you have any questions, please contact me at ssanto@usd.edu

Dr. Santo

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