



The **U**niversity of South Dakota.

EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to

AHED 765/TET 755: Distance Learning

Dear Students:

Are you interested in learning about the different types of distance learning, the benefits of distance learning, what is involved in putting distance courses together, emerging technologies for distance learning, characteristics of distance students, and how to manage a distance program? Then this course is for you! Students will examine the history of distance learning, analyze case studies of actual distance learning situations, compare different delivery systems, and research a specific area of interest involving distance learning. 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:

1. Moore, Michael G., & Kearsley, Greg. (2005). *Distance education – A systems view, 2nd ed.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing/Thomson Learning. ISBN: 0-534-50688-7.
2. Smith, Robin M. (2008). *Conquering the content: A step-by-step guide to online course design.* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Wiley. ISBN: 978-0-7879-9442-6.
This book has NOT been previously used in this course.

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 <http://amazon.com>, but keep in mind that they may take longer to arrive.

We will use both Desire2Learn and the real-time web-conferencing system Elluminate Live! We will also be looking at using virtual worlds for distance learning by visiting and discussing Second Life, software that you can download free. Second Life is an immersive three-dimensional graphical environment that includes a real-time chat function. You will start out by creating an avatar, a cartoon-like representation of

yourself that can walk, chat, and fly. You will *not* be able to log into Desire2Learn until the first day of the semester. Once you have access, please review the Syllabus carefully.

ALL MEETING TIMES ARE CENTRAL TIME.

Dates/Times for Elluminate Sessions:

Thurs., Sept. 10, 6:30 pm

Thurs., Oct. 29, 6:30 pm

Thurs., Dec. 3, 6:30 pm

Note: If you are unable to attend an Elluminate session, you will be able to view a recording and comment on it on D2L.

Tentative Dates/Times for Second Life Sessions:

Thurs., Sept. 24, 7:00 pm (Notice the change in starting time.)

Thurs., Oct. 8, 7:00 pm

Thurs., Nov. 12, 7:00 pm

Hope to see you this fall online!

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