

EPOL 486: New Media and Learner Differences

Spring A 2024



INSTRUCTORS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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COURSE SCHEDULE AND OFFICE HOURS

Synchronous Session: Mondays 6:30-7:30 pm US Central time.

Zoom link: <https://illinois.zoom.us/j/86589469346>

Meeting ID: 865 8946 9346 Passcode: 535

Find your local number: <https://illinois.zoom.us/u/kj3FuRX4s>

Office Hours: 5:30-6:30 pm US Central time (same Zoom link as above)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An investigation of the dimensions of learner diversity: material (class, locale), corporeal (age, race, sex and sexuality, and physical and mental characteristics) and symbolic (culture, language, gender, family, affinity and persona). Examines social-cultural theories of difference, as well as considering alternative responses to these differences in educational settings – ranging from broad, institutional responses to specific pedagogical responses within classes of students. The course also focuses on the application of learning technologies and new media to meet the needs of diverse populations of learners. Its main practical question is, how do we use educational technologies to create learning environments in which learning experiences can be customized and calibrated to meet the precise needs of particular learners? Topics include: universal design for learning, differentiated instruction systems, and adaptive and personalized learning environments.

SYLLABUS AND COURSE MATERIAL

All course materials, including instructor videos and assignment details can be found within the *CGScholar platform*, both through the course learning module and the term-specific community. The interactive syllabus can be found on the LDL program website: <https://ldlprogram.web.illinois.edu>. PDF versions of the website are included on the following pages.

[Course Community link](#) (View course content as individual posts and submit work)

[Learning Module link](#) (See all course content on a single page)

[Oral/Video Presentation Sign-up Sheet](#)

[Work Type Sign-Up Sheet](#)

[Update 5: The Canvas of Feedback](#)

[Update 6: Peer Collaboration, Self-Reflection, and AI Review](#)

TERM SCHEDULE AND ADMIN UPDATE TOPICS

Week #	Week Start and Synchronous Session	Week End (and typically due date by 11 p.m. CT)	Course Topic(s)
Pre-Week 1	N/A	January 16th	0. New LDL Course Participant Onboarding, if applicable
Week 1	January 16th No Synchronous Session	January 21st	1A. Human Diversity and Learner Transformation - Mary Kalantzis 1B: Recent Publications by Cope and Kalantzis
Week 2	January 22nd	January 28th	2. Learner Differences in Theory and Practice - Bill Cope
Midweek 2		January 31st	
Week 3	January 29th	February 4th	3A. Race and Cultural Diversity in US Education - James D. Anderson 3B. Segregation, Integration, Desegregation and Resegregation - William T. Trent
Week 4	February 5th	February 11th	4. Should Education be a Right? Historical Perspectives - Christopher M. Span
Midweek 5		February 14th	
Week 5	February 12th	November 19th	5. Diversity in American Public Education - Yoon Pak
Week 6	February 19th	February 25th	6. Postcolonial Theory and Education - Cameron McCarthy
Week 7	February 26th	March 3rd	7. The Inclusive School - Mary Kalantzis and Bill Cope
Week 8	March 4th	March 13th	All Work Due in order to receive a final grade by the deadline