Week 1: August 31

In this course you will learn about ways to use technology to enhance student understanding. You may increase your skill in using software or you may tackle some new software while doing an assignment. However, the main focus of this course will be on looking at curriculum and classroom environments that support the natural integration of technology as a tool.

The culminating performance task for this course will be a backwards design unit using technology as a tool. You will also complete a task exemplar using technology you’ll expect your students to use for their culminating performance task in the unit you design.

The Discussion Board forums are an essential part of this course. To do well in this course, you will need to read materials carefully, be an active participant in Discussion Board, do assignments in the order given (especially when you begin designing your unit) and keep up with the timeline. You will also need to grapple with the course concepts and contribute thoughtful ideas and analysis of texts and discussions. I would anticipate your spending at least 10 hours on this course weekly.

I will post assignments on the Monday of every week. Assignments should be completed by Sunday of that week unless otherwise noted. I have included a timeline in the Resources section of the course website. The timeline is my best idea of how the course will unfold over the semester. It may need to be revamped along the way to tailor it to this particular group of participants. The weekly assignments posted at the home site always take precedence over the timeline. I have also included a syllabus and an assessment document there. If you’re going to print anything out, it should probably be the syllabus, timeline and assessments documents.

This first week will give all of us a chance to figure out the ins and outs of the UAS Online course site and to become familiar with Discussion Board, the tool we will use for discussion. Here are the tasks to complete by Sept. 4:
1. **Read the *Welcome to ED 628 introduction* to this course.** You will find it posted in the Resources section in the course website.

2. **Add your name and picture to the class participant list.** Please enter your correct email address since few, if any, of us seem to use our UAS email address. If you use more than one address and would like to be contacted at both, be sure to make separate entries for each.

   It is quite easy to upload a picture if it is the appropriate size. Just click on “upload a file” and follow the directions. Contact the UAS Computer HelpDesk at 465-6400. If you are located out of the Juneau area, the toll free number is 1-877-465-6400.

3. **Explore this site.** Check out and print the course **Syllabus, Timeline, and Assessments** posted in the Resources section. Take a lingering look at the **Unit Rubric** within Assessments to see where we are headed with our culminating performance task for the class. Try the library links, etc. You will find some great resources with more to come.

   Read through the **Orientation Notes for ED 628** carefully. Be sure to forward your mail if you mainly use an email different than the UAS one.

   Review the National Education Technology Standards (NETS) as presented in the ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) website. You will find links to three different NETS sites in the Resources section. This course is designed to help teachers meet these standards. If you are in the Educational Technology Masters program, you’ll want to follow the **Technology Leadership NETS**. All other programs should take a look at the **Teacher NETS**. These links will be especially valuable to those of you who will be pulling together a portfolio at the end of your program of study. Also take a look at the **NETS Student Profiles** for the grade level of the students you are teaching. This will be especially helpful for early childhood and primary folks to see the developmental level of the profiles for the little guys.
4. **Join the Discussion Board forum.** Just click on the Discussion Board link on this site. You will need your UAS student id. and your password. If you need help with this, call the HelpDesk.

5. **Introduce yourself.** You will find the first discussion item forum in Discussion Board, *Getting to Know Each Other/Our Mission*. We’ll be answering our first essential question this week: Who are we, and what is our mission? Please write and post a *brief* introduction. Let us know some things like where you live and teach, a bit about how you use technology in your classroom now and what your goals might be for future technology use, and anything else you would like to share about your life.

   Additionally, after reviewing the course website, answer the following questions: How is the course “mission” different from your expectations? What are your hopes for this course? What will be your biggest challenge?

   This will be one of the few times we will have all class members responding in one big Discussion Board entry so please keep your comments brief. **Do** try to respond to others’ comments (see the Discussion Rubric in Assessments) and check in to this discussion forum at least twice by the end of *next* week since this is a short week.

6. **Remember to look at the current week’s assignments every week - before going to Discussion Board.** Detailed instructions will be posted here. You will find yourself confused and frustrated if you miss this information.

7. **Read** the text *An Ethic of Excellence* by Ron Berger. Berger presents a stimulating and thought-provoking picture of a classroom that we will return to again and again as we work to answer the essential question for this course:

   **How do we create an ethic of excellence supported by the infusion of technology?**
8. **Complete the ED 628 First Week Survey** in the Assignments section below.

9. **Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.**

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**Looking ahead to next week:**
We will begin the first 6 chapters of Williams’ *Non-Designer’s Design Book* (they’re quite short). It’s a light and lively read. You will also apply her design principles to a flyer, newsletter, business card or template of your choice. Be thinking about something you need to or would like to design (or design better) that will be useful to you.