University of Wisconsin

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History 710: Designing Courses
T 1:20-3:15

This is a workshop in designing courses: thematic and chronological, lectures and seminars, for all levels of students. Each participant will design one course of their choosing, to be taught in-person, blended, or fully online from a platform we shall be discussing. In our weekly meetings, we begin with the changing landscape of course design itself, the need to design courses that can be changed at any point in a given semester. We shall also be talking about conceptualizing the whole, the parts, and how one builds connections over a single term of study. In our discussion of lecture courses, we shall consider the architecture of each lecture as it fits into the larger architecture of the course, as well as how to build into each lecture differing levels and kinds of access for a diverse student body. In our discussion of building a seminar, we shall explore various ways of bringing students into weekly conversations – how to build into the structure of the course student engagement with the material. For all courses, we shall be exploring ways of fostering student participation in what may well be a virtual classroom.

The credit standard for this course is met by an expectation of a total of 135 hours of engagement with the course's learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit or 9 hours per week), which include regularly scheduled meeting times (group seminar meetings of 115 minutes per week), dedicated online time, reading, writing, field trips, individual consultations with the instructor, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

By the end of the semester, each of you will be required to have developed—conceptualized, articulated goals, structured pedagogical steps of learning to meet those goals, determined assignments that support those goals, and established a scale for measuring student progress—one course. We shall also be developing a variety of ideas for world history courses that might be implemented in different teaching situations.

January 26	Introductions: Our Strengths and Our Hopes
February 2	Platforms and Conceptualizing Teaching in Digital Media
February 9	Goals of your course
February 16	Architecture
February 23	Units I
March 2	Units A
March 9	Units 1
March 16	Readings and Digital Forms of Media
March 23	Assignments
March 30	Designing a Lecture
April 6	Online
April 13	Open Discussion: Hurdles? Brick Walls? Streams? Resources?
April 20	Collective Discussion of Final Drafts
April 27	Lessons