



Getting Up to Speed with Cool Tech Tools

EDUO 9107 3 Semester Credits/Units

Instructor: Joe Herz jherz@dominicancaonline.com

Course Revision for new Enrollees starting 2.7.18

Note: This is a Public syllabus of the course. For a fully detailed syllabus, please email the instructor.

A textbook is no longer required for this course. Tech changes occur rapidly, outdating print within a short time. The heart of this course remains; assisting newer tech-using teachers or teachers wanting to re-acquaint themselves with use of tech, to get up to speed with cool tech tools.

Course Overview: Embrace 21st-Century Learning by exploring a variety of tech tools and online resources for teachers and students. Enhance your technology integration whether you are just getting started or wish to stay current with cutting-edge tools. Explore current digital tools and resources as well as examples of their application to curriculum. Investigate classroom management tools and tech-infused teaching practices. Participate in hands-on collaborative and creative experiences using blogs, cloud documents, digital presentations and publications and more!

There are 11 course assignments plus a Course Reflection Forum posting. Before you begin the first assignment review the following assignment information from the How To Proceed document.

Assignments require you review tools, give examples use and may ask you to perform specific tasks such as posting work or completing simple projects. In order to complete some tasks, you may need to register at a tool's websites. Some assignments ask that you post work on specific websites. These websites may require that you set up a user account. If you are concerned with using your personal email to set up an account, I suggest creating an alternative account to use rather than your personal email account.

Assignment Organization:

Use the 6 Assignment Response Topics below when responding to each assignment unless otherwise indicated.

Assignment Response Topics:

1. Summarize the tool(s) in your own words
2. Give an example of its relevance in education
3. Give an example of how it can be used to differentiate curriculum
4. Use the tool to post a product example online (if one is assigned)
5. Tell how this tool could be used with your students. If the tool just doesn't fit the needs of your students, explain why not and give an example of students it would work with.
6. Develop a conclusion based on 1-5.

Prologue to Assignments

Before starting assignments, I suggest you read the following four online articles and opinions on using technology in classrooms. Their content will help you get various perspectives on the value, the struggles and the excitement of effectively using from simple to complex levels of cool technology tools.

- [Robots Won't Take Our Jobs, or Why Teachers Need to Relax About Technology](#)
- [3 questions to ask when using new technology in the classroom](#)

Assignments

Assignment 1

Assignment 1 is about **Tech Tool 1**. Web Access, Computers, Laptops, Tablets and Smart Phones. Students need access to the web.

1. Include in #2 below, an inventory of your school's available technologies. Include
2. Use the **Assignment Response Topics** items 2-6 create a document to be placed in Assignment 1 Dropbox.

Assignment 2

Assignment 2 is about **Webquests**. Your tasks for the assignment:

1. Do some digging. Look up the history and ...
 - <https://www.quickbase.com/articles/the-complete-guide-to-creating-web-quests>
2. IN ADDITION:
 - a. Locate an existing WebQuest from www.zunal.com that you would consider using as is or with some revisions to make it more acceptable for your needs.

Assignment 3

Assignment 3 is about **Blogs**. Your tasks for the assignment:

1. The sites below should get you up to speed on WebQuests but don't stop with these if you feel inquisitive.
 - c. <https://www.theedublogger.com/2017/08/07/ten-reasons-every-educator-should-start-blogging/>
3. IN ADDITION: To practice use of a simple blog we will use Google's Blogger....

Assignment 4

Assignment 4 is about **Digital Media Production Tools**

1. The sites below should get you up to speed on the importance of letting students use digital media production tools but don't stop with these if you feel inquisitive:
 - <http://www.pbs.org/education/blog/digital-literacy-crafting-digital-media>
3. Select One of the following tools. Set up a Free or Trial account if required. Use the tool to create a short example. The project's subject must be related to your educational job. The experience is what counts.

Assignment 5

Assignment 5 is about **Google Drive** tools. Your tasks for the assignment:

1. The sites below should get you up to speed on use of the very popular GSuite tools but don't stop with these if you feel inquisitive:
3. IN ADDITION:
 - a. You will use Google Drive to access a word processing document, a Presentation and a Form

Assignment 6

Assignment 6 is about tools to help you **Organize your Digital World**. Your tasks for the assignment: Review the use of each item below.

- A. **Pinterest:**
- B. **Diigo:**
- C. **Symbaloo**

Assignment 7

Assignment 7 is about **Planning and Teaching Tools for the Classroom**. Your tasks for the assignment:

The four sites below should get you up to speed on some respected tools to help you develop and support your curriculum and your influence your teaching practices.

- [The Teaching Channel](#)
- [Teacher Tube](#)

Assignment 8

Assignment 8 is about the tool **Piktochart**, an online creativity tool. Your tasks for the assignment: Some online reads and watches about Piktochart: (search YouTube for many tutorials and examples of use in classrooms)

<https://educationcloset.com/2016/11/04/technology-review-piktochart/>

2. IN ADDITION: You will be creating your own Piktochart at <https://piktochart.com/blog/category/visuals-hub/education/>

Assignment 9

Assignment 9 is about **Flipping Your Classroom and Blended Learning**. Your tasks for the assignment:

Flipping the Classroom and Blended Learning are teaching methods and not really tools. But, each relies heavily on use of tech tools so let's look at some of those tools. First though, a brief look at Flipping and Blending are necessary.

1. The sites below should get you up to speed on the meaning and approaches to Flipped Learning but don't stop with it if you feel inquisitive:

- [FLN Shares its Four Pillars of Flipped Learning](#)

Learning Management Tools to support Flipping. These 4 are common platforms used by districts, schools and classrooms to manage tech curriculum.

- Google Drive and Google Classroom

Assignment 10

Assignment 10 is about **Digital Capture Tools**

Capturing or creating digital content to supplement Blended Learning has become easy thanks to new online tools and devices.

Always keep in mind Copyright laws and Fair Use guidelines when using digital content for educational purposes!

1. Read about using Screen Capture to supplement learning
2. Respected tools that capture online digital content for classroom use.

Assignment 11

**Assignment 11 does not refer to a tool. This is a course culminating assignment.
(this assignment does not use the 1-6 assignment organization)**

Your task for the assignment is to combine the following into one document:

1. A written introduction you will use to get the session under way. Should be at least 3-4 good paragraphs.
2. An outline telling which 4 tools will be covered. Include in the outline points you will make about each tool that make them so cool.
3. A written conclusion to reinforce the importance of tech usage with today's digital students.

Place the completed document in the Assignment 11 dropbox.

Course Reflection Forum Posting

1. As a final step in the course, you will submit (post) the equivalent of a single document to the **Course Reflection Forum**. The reflective assignment must be equivalent to at least one full page (1/2 or less margins/ single spaced paragraphs) in length.