



Advanced UDL to Increase Success for All Students

EDUO 9254 3 Graduate-Level Credits/Units

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Course Syllabus

Course Overview:

Understand how principles for Universal Design for Learning (UDL) allow students enhanced accessibility to core content. Engage in assignments to help design classwork in a way that will help remove barriers to students' learning and empower them to create learning opportunities that will improve their success. Discover how to work within the three main principles of UDL specific to your content area. Note: There are a wide variety of resources available on this subject. See **Optional Resources** at the end of the syllabus for a few. It is up to the learner to decide if they want to purchase books, read from researched articles or utilize credible websites to continue to build their assignments throughout this course.

Course Learning Objectives: Participants will have opportunity:

- To demonstrate knowledge of the three main principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and why it should be embedded in classroom instruction
- To discover and apply a variety of methods within each of the principle UDL sections
- To implement lessons with various UDL methods throughout a unit
- To analyze and reflect upon the use of the specific methods used and determine success and areas for further improvement

Course Relation to Professional Standards

This course aligns to the standards for the teaching profession:

- Standard 2: Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning
- Standard 3: Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning
- Standard 4: Planning Instruction and Designing Learning Experiences for All Students
- Standard 6: Developing as a Professional Educator

Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards:

- *State of California Quality Professional Learning Standards*

A. *Continuously develop educators' capacity to teach and lead so that all students learn and thrive.*

1. *Equity - Quality professional learning focuses on equitable access, opportunities, and outcomes for all students, with an emphasis on addressing achievement and opportunity disparities between student groups*

2. *Design and Structure - Quality professional learning reflects evidence-based approaches, recognizing that focused, sustained learning enables educators to acquire, implement, and assess improved practices.*

How to Submit Coursework

Each completed assignment in this course is submitted to the instructor for review. Follow directions at the end of each assignment on how to prepare and submit your assignments. Name each file submitted with your last name and assignment number (i.e. BrownAssignment3. Make sure you place your full name, course number and assignment number at the top of each document page. You will receive feedback from your instructor within 5 days indicating successful completion of the assignment or the need for revision. Assignment grades will be averaged for the final course grade.

Course Assignments

There are 8 course assignments to complete. Place all completed assignment work in the assignments corresponding course Dropbox.

Assessment - The Course Assessment Rubric will be used to assess if the assignment's objective(s) were met. Grades and comments will be issued via the LMS

Assignment 1 *Introduction*

Objective: The goal of this assignment is to give me insight into your current teaching context, prior experience with Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and the range of learners you support. This background will help me better understand your instructional environment and tailor the course content to better meet your needs.

Assignment Includes: Please begin with a brief introduction (class and grade level currently teaching) in addition to where you learned your basic Universal Design for Learning information (i.e. professional development on campus, Dominican course for UDL Readiness etc.) If you have an idea of range of abilities and/or diversity of learners you will be instructing please add that detail in addition to any other information you think would be beneficial for me to have prior to the course work. Please label your assignment in the subject line with **Introduction** and then your initials and turn into Dropbox 1.

Assignment 2 *Expert Research and Previous Experience*

Objective: The purpose of this assignment is to assess your current understand of UDL by having you engage with expert research and connect it to your own instructional experiences. Using the UDL Implementation Rubric as a guide, this task will help me evaluate your ability to apply UDL principles in practice and identify areas for deeper exploration throughout the course.

Assignment Includes: Please review research available or share previous learning you may have encountered with regards to Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Demonstrate your knowledge of understanding, both with expert research and anecdotal connection with a previous experience, using the principles of UDL (representation, action & expression and strategic) . Please use the [UDL Implementation Rubric](#) to help evaluate your knowledge and understanding of UDL implementation. Please label your assignment in the subject line with **Expert Research and Previous Experience** and then your initials and turn into Dropbox 2.

Assignment 3 *Video Observations*

Objective: The purpose of this assignment is to deepen your understanding of the three core principles of UDL-representation, action & expression and engagement – through observation of practical examples in video format. Your notes, captured using the provided template, will help you reflect on key concepts and new insights while also allowing me to gauge your growing awareness of UDL implementation in diverse instructional settings.

Assignment Includes: Please watch at least one video specific to each principle (representation, action & expression and engagement) in Universal Design for Learning . Using the provided [Note Taking Template](#) found in Moodle, take notes from what you observe noting both the big ideas and any new learning you experience from watching the video. Aim for videos from a variety of sources. Please title this **Video Observations** with your initials in the subject line and turn these notes into Dropbox 3.

Assignment 4 Unit Overview / Choice Board

Objective: The purpose of this assignment is to support your application of UDL by having you develop a unit overview and lesson objectives that are relevant to your specific teaching context. Additionally, by researching and designing choice boards for each of the three principles you will explore flexible ways to offer students meaningful choices while addressing diverse learning needs in your classroom.

Assignment Includes: 4a - You will **begin by creating a unit overview** and then broad lesson plan objectives that are useful in your day-to-day teaching (unique to your content specific area). This document may be created in a way that works best for you. I have provided [one optional layout](#) here.

4b - One way for Universal Design for Learning to be effective is to create a choice board for learners. Research and **create at least one choice board for each of the three principles** of UDL (representation, action & expression and engagement). Give a brief description of the lesson and your objective for the class to introduce each choice board. One great [video resource link](#) is provided for you here.

Assignment 5 Unit Overview / Principles

Objective: The purpose of this assignment is to extend your previous work by creating one new assignment for each of the three UDL principles by building on your existing unit overview and choice boards. This task will help me see how you are refining or expanding your instructional design to align with UDL guidelines, while giving you the opportunity to reflect on how your new or revised assignments support diverse learners in meaningful ways.

Assignment Includes: Build off the Assignment 4 Unit **Overview and Choice Board** that already created. Utilize at least one new assignment for each of the three principles (3 in total). When you complete each section, submit it with the subject line labeled with Principle Title (representation, action & expression, and engagement) and your initials after that into Dropbox 5. *Be sure to include the work example along with an explanation of the changes you have made to previous work or if it is a new assignment tell me that and how it meets Universal Design for Learning targets.*

Assignment 6 Assignment Analysis

Objective: The purpose of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to reflect on the effectiveness of the newly created lessons from Assignment 5 by analyzing their strengths and weaknesses after implementation. This analysis will help you identify how well your lessons align with the UDL principles and provide valuable insight into areas for continued growth and refinement in your instructional practice.

Assignment Includes: Please analyze each newly created assignment 5 lesson for its strengths and weaknesses. Provide evidence of this [Lesson Analysis](#) to be turned in after implementation. Submit your completed work to Dropbox 6.

Assignment 7 Additional UDL Approaches

Objective: The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate your deeper understanding of UDL by revisiting and enhancing three lessons – either from the current unit or an upcoming one. By clearly identifying the principle you are targeting and explain how your revisions add an additional layer of accessibility and flexibility, you will show your ability to thoughtfully integrate UDL strategies into practical, real-world lesson design.

Assignment Includes: Please prove depth of understanding on the topic of Universal Design for Learning. Either choose 3 other lessons from this unit or look ahead to a future unit and give a brief

recap of the original lesson then add a new twist to each assignment challenging you to add in a UDL method , this may include but is not limited to adding a UDL menu to a unit or lesson, with a different approach. Be sure to label which area of UDL (representation, action & expression and engagement) that you are focusing on adding the additional layer to. Submit your completed work to Dropbox 7.

Assignment 8 Reflection

Objective: The purpose of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to reflect on your experience designing lessons and activities through the lens of UDL. By thoughtfully examining the challenges you faced, the strategies you used to overcome them, and the insights you gained, this reflection will help solidify your understanding of UDL and highlight the personal growth you have made throughout the course.

Assignment Includes: Please reflect on the process of setting up lesson plans and/or activities through the UDL lens. You may use the following questions as guidelines or answer in a manner that is most comfortable for you as a learner. Be specific throughout this reflection. Submit your completed work to Dropbox 8.

What barriers did you encounter throughout this process?

How did you deal with those challenges?

What was your biggest takeaway from this experience?

Did you have any shocking A-ha moments that will stick with you after this course is complete?

Course Assessment Rubric

EXCELLENT	ACCEPTABLE	NOT ACCEPTABLE
<p><i>Meets or Exceeds Course Objectives:</i></p> <p><i>A to A-</i></p>	<p><i>Majority of Work Meets Course Objectives:</i></p> <p><i>B+ to B -</i></p>	<p><i>Needs Considerable Improvement: Resubmit Work Suggested:</i></p> <p><i>C or below</i></p>
<p><i>Shows exemplary understanding of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) theories and methods and why UDL should be utilized in classroom instruction.</i></p>	<p><i>Shows basic understanding of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) theories and methods and why UDL should be utilized in classroom instruction.</i></p>	<p><i>Needs more time to develop an understanding of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) theories and methods and why UDL should be utilized in classroom instruction.</i></p>
<p><i>Shows exemplary application of new knowledge evidenced by an understanding of how the three major UDL principles help to create success for everyone.</i></p>	<p><i>Shows basic application of new knowledge evidenced by an understanding of how the three major UDL principles help to create success for everyone.</i></p>	<p><i>Needs more time to develop the application of new knowledge evidenced by an understanding of how the three major UDL principles help to create success for everyone.</i></p>

<p><i>Organized very well. Work is original. Supporting material easy to locate, clearly labeled and related to the corresponding assignment.</i></p>	<p><i>Organized fairly well. Work is original. Supporting material somewhat hard to locate and loosely related to corresponding assignment. Is generally organized and labeled.</i></p>	<p><i>Organized poorly. Not all work is original. Supporting material difficult to locate or not present and/or not related to corresponding assignment. Shows little or no organization and assignments are poorly labeled</i></p>
<p><i>UDL Unit Plan shows exemplary application of UDL principles and theories and also contains specific objectives, including but not limited to choice boards created to support student learning and is well organized.</i></p>	<p><i>UDL Unit Plan shows basic application of UDL principles and theories and also contains specific objectives, including but not limited to choice boards created to support student learning and is well organized.</i></p>	<p><i>UDL Unit Plan needs more time to show application of UDL principles and theories and also needs to contain specific objectives, including but not limited to choose boards created to support student learning and is somewhat organized.</i></p>
<p><i>Free of spelling and grammatical errors. Assignments are word processed using standard 12pt font. Presentation is neat with good use of white space and margins.</i></p>	<p><i>Organized fairly well. Supporting material somewhat hard to locate and loosely related to corresponding assignment. Is generally organized and labeled.</i></p>	<p><i>Organized poorly. Supporting material difficult to locate or not present and/or not related to corresponding assignment. Shows little or no organization and assignments are poorly labeled.</i></p>

Optional resources include but are not limited to:

- CAST.org - website
- Katie Novak - website and books
- cultofpedagogy.com - website
- Savannaflakes.com - website