

MDDE 660 Communities of Inquiry in Blended and Online Teaching and Learning

Course Runs Winter 2018



Blended and online teaching and learning (BOTL) now has a significant place in the narrative and practice of education in 21st century. Changes in student needs for accessible, convenient, high quality education, technological opportunities, and pedagogical frameworks all lead to what's now called blended and online learning: the use of web-based learning management systems alone or in combination with face-to-face classroom delivery.

Online and blended learning emerged as an education form several decades ago. The need for flexible learning and the available technology raced ahead of the theoretical and instructional expertise needed for this new type of delivery. In 2000, Garrison, Anderson, and Archer published a theoretical framework developed to structure the process of learning in an online or blended environment. The Community of Inquiry (CoI) is based on the work of Dewey and constructivist views of experiential learning (Garrison, 2000). The CoI framework describes the necessary elements to create deep and meaningful learning. The original framework identifies the education experience as occurring at the convergence of three presences: cognitive, teaching, and social presence. Presence is defined, in our application of this model, as a state of alert awareness, receptivity, and connectedness to the social, cognitive, emotional, and physical workings of both the individual and the group in the context of their learning environments (adapted from a definition by Rogers & Raider-Roth, 2006, p. 1).

Students in this course will develop a knowledge base in social and inquiry-based learning theory, define and debate potential elements of online and blended learning, review technological opportunities and disadvantages, and apply and critique the foundations of online and blended communities of inquiry.

This is a three-credit, Master's level, seminar course. It is delivered in Moodle and is grouped and paced.

For more information or to register, contact mde@athabascau.ca