

Student Comments

IT 546: Instructional Technology and Digital Literacy

Instructor: Paula Dagnon, paula.dagnon@wwu.edu

"I don't think instructional technology would be an easy thing to teach even if all of the students were at the same skill level, so I found it all the more remarkable that Paula managed to teach a class of non-traditional students in the College and Continuing Education program, with widely varying levels technological ability and in many cases high levels of anxiety, so effectively. It was clear that she had been very thoughtful in how a blended learning approach could be implemented for maximum engagement and learning experience. In reflecting on the class, perhaps the one thing that made it so effective was that her approach to the blended format allowed students the freedom to shape their learning experience while at the same time giving them a structure and community to relate to each."

"The recipe for blended learning consists of more than equal parts digital and face to face instruction. Tasty ingredients also include student fears, expectations, and abilities; emerging technologies and contextualized social issues; a dash of play and some innovation to taste. Paula's Instructional Technology and Education class concocted the perfect balance necessary for a well-blended learning experience.

Regardless of expertise all students engaged in a collaborative partnership where we explored contemporary and personal aspects of the intersection between education and our digital world. Supported as a whole we developed finite skillsets and were encouraged to experiment, fail, and innovate. We expanded individualized learning by sharing in the teaching, exploration, and development of one another. This is not by accident, but by design.

*Escaping rigidity, Paula also expressed fluidity of leadership as an effective educator. At times she was the IT wizard, others the accomplished academic. Sometimes she was sympathetic ear, but most often she was the silent partner observing with presence and readiness.
VIVA!"*

"I left the CCE program in 2009 in part because the educational technology hadn't matured to the point where it felt actively deployed in the program. IT546 was the first class I had after a 5-year hiatus, and my imagination was ignited - while the material was very challenging, I always felt supported in class and confident that I could succeed. The wiki assignment was one of the greatest things I've ever accomplished as a student, and I hope to develop an assignment like this in my own work as an instructor."