

Constructivism and the Design of Instructional Technology

Course description: The focus of this course is to examine constructivist theories of learning and their influence on the design of instructional technologies and curricula. This course is designed to help students develop and understand relationships and tensions between constructivist theory and practice in educational settings. We will investigate these theories from multiple perspectives: historically, theoretically, pedagogically, and technologically. This course will be conducted as a seminar. We will focus on the theories of Piaget, Dewey, Vygotsky, and Papert, and examine how their ideas currently inform the design of learning communities. Students will apply their theoretical understanding of course readings by spending the second half of the semester working collaboratively on a final project.