



McWeadon
Enabling Learning Without Boundaries

Introduction to the Course

By

Badrul Khan

I created this course out of our own experience as a learner, facilitator, and designer of online and technology-supported courses and workshops.

My philosophy for this course has been to make it very “hands on” rather than theoretical, and I want participants to come away with experience in evaluating e-learning courses with the critical issues of online learning environments. With that type of applied experience in mind, I look forward to exchanges with each of you in the discussion activities each week and to your own final course evaluation report of a mini online course (you can select a course to review from <https://www.udemy.com> by login into the site).

Evaluation of an e-learning environment is different than the evaluation of a traditional face-to-face classroom-based environment. In traditional face-to-face classes, learners usually evaluate their instructors—which makes sense since instructors are the ones who taught these courses with their own lecture materials. However, e-learning at an open and distributed e-learning environment is a different paradigm. An e-learning course can be developed and taught by a single instructor, but usually e-learning courses are designed, developed, delivered and supported by multiple individuals and support units within an institution. Instructors are just one part of e-learning environment.

Therefore, just evaluating the instructor will not provide the total picture of the e-learning environment as the instructor’s performance is systemically dependent on the quality of course design, support services and efficiency of technology infrastructure. Like the proverb “it takes a whole village to raise child,” the learning at a distance is fostered by the instructor and other support staff including, tutor, technical support person, librarian, counselor and registration staff.

I found that there are myriad of critical issues of online environment, *Institutional, Management, Technological, Pedagogical, Ethical considerations, Interface Design, Resource Support, and Evaluation* are the critical elements of online learning environment. In this course I incorporated snippets of videos in lectures to explain the critical issues of online learning (my apologies in advance for the poor technical quality of some of the videos). I developed a Framework for E-learning which includes all eight dimensions of online learning environment. This framework serves as the guiding framework for the EDTC 6329-1.

I look forward to learning about you in the Week 1 [Introductions](#). See you there.

Please note that Vicky Sandoval will serve as my research associate, as needed.

Let's have a great summer session,

Badrul Khan

<http://BadrulKhan.com/>