

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
EDCI 551—Multicultural Education
Online Course

<http://texsu.blackboard.com>

Fall Semester 2009

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Electronic and Phone Office Hours:

Monday	11-12 Noon; 1:00— 2:00 PM
Wednesday	1:30—3:30 PM
Thursday	1:00—4:00 PM
Friday/Live Classroom	5:00—6:00 PM

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Online Program



Requirements

Research on effective characteristics of online learners has concluded that learners in this day and age tend to be dynamic, younger, more heterogeneous and responsive to rapid technological innovations in contrast to traditional online learners (e.g. older and more goal oriented).

Although a clear profile of this unique learner is still emerging, there are several characteristics and skills perceived as critical to the success of the online learner Dabbagh (2007). **It is imperative for candidates enrolled in this course to possess the following qualities to ensure mastery of the course objectives.**

- ❖ Be skilled in the use of online learning technologies, particularly communication and collaborative technologies.
- ❖ Have a strong academic self-concept and good interpersonal and communication skills.
- ❖ Have a basic understanding and appreciation of collaborative learning.
- ❖ Acquire self-directed learning skills through the deployment of time management and cognitive learning strategies (e.g. willing to commit time—for concept development).
- ❖ Be able to set goals (e.g. set achievable goals each week—when candidates get behind, the benefits of interactive learning are lost).
- ❖ Become a researcher (obtain information from various resources).
- ❖ Be willing to share ideas and experiences.
- ❖ Be patient, persistent and ask questions.
- ❖ Be a self-motivator.
- ❖ Be able to keep up with the pace (e.g. complete weekly activities and post reflections).
- ❖ Be able to use the course netiquette—comply with a set of social rules for interacting online which will help to keep misunderstanding to a minimum.
- ❖ Be able to make use of electronic communication (email, discussion board).
- ❖ Be able to make use of electronic collaboration (discussion board, Blackboard groups).
- ❖ Be able to use interactive software or web-based activities.
- ❖ Believe that high quality learning can occur online (put forth the effort).
- ❖ **Be willing to commit 4 to 6 hours per week on course learning activities.**

Hardware

Suggested Computer Hardware and Software Needed:

Operating System: (one of the following)

PC with Windows 2000, XP or Vista

Macintosh Operating System OS X – operating system's minimum requirements for processor, memory and hard drive

At least 30 GB of free hard drive space. Newer computers are equipped with minimum 250GB hard drive space.

Processor: 300 MHz or higher preferred

Sound Card: Required

Modem: Cable or DSL

Monitor: 17" monitor with 800x600 resolution capability or larger with 16-bit video resolution

Online Program Requirements, Continued

Microphone

Printer: Graphics-capable (inkjet or laser printer)

Speakers

Web camera (optional)

Software

MS Windows OS (2000, XP, Vista) or **MAC OS X**

Microsoft Office 2003 or 2007

Plug-ins: The following plug-ins may be required by your course instructor in order to access online course materials. [Click here](#) to view a complete list of plug-ins.

Adobe PDF Reader - for viewing Portable Document Files (PDF)

QuickTime Player - for viewing movies

RealPlayer - for viewing movies

Flash Player - for viewing animation

Sun Java™ 2 Platform or higher for Pc or Classic Java for Mac: Required for Wimba Live Classroom or Podcasting

Browser: See the [Blackboard/WebCT Browser Tune-up](#)

Internet/Email**DSL or Cable Internet Service Required****Internet Connection: Required**

You are required to have a dependable connection to the Internet. If you do not have a connection at this time, there are a variety of connection options available. You should research the various providers and choose the service that meets your needs and financial situation. Please keep in mind that the speed and reliability of your connection will directly influence your online learning experience.

Internet Browser Information: For SDCCD Online courses using Blackboard/WebCT Vista 4, you must use a supported browser. Visit the [Blackboard/WebCT Browser Tune-up](#) for Supported Browser Versions

Other requirements for active participation in the online program

- ❖ Post reflections on the process of online learning as required by the course instructor
- ❖ **Ask questions of the professor and post them in the Q & A Forum, each week**
- ❖ Contact group members consistently
- ❖ Be persistent in finding solutions to your problems
- ❖ **Check the Announcements at least three (3) times a week and respond.**
- ❖ **Read! Read! Read!**