

# Syllabus

## Web 2.0 for Student Collaboration

### National Labor College

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Welcome to the Web 2.0 for Student Collaboration course. On the course start date, you may access the course on the NLC Blackboard system – <http://nlc.blackboard.com>. If you are a new student, a Blackboard username/password should be provided to you by the online start date. If you did not provide an e-mail address when you registered or you do not receive a username/password by the course start date, then email [onlinesupport@nlc.edu](mailto:onlinesupport@nlc.edu). Check the Assignments section of the course for your first assignment and due dates.

## Instructor

Instructor: Robert Morriss

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## Course Overview

### Course Rationale

This course will acquaint teachers with today's technology in order to effectively promote student collaboration and teamwork. Participants will learn collaborative learning techniques, as well as collaborative technology.

### Delivery and Communication

Web 2.0 for Student Collaboration is part of the National Labor College's Computer Skills & Technology in Education Certificate and delivered completely online. There are assigned readings and/or exercises during each week of the class. Class discussions correspond to the weekly assignments. Students may correspond with the instructor and each other via e-mail, real-time chat and online conferencing. A discussion area is also available on Blackboard.

### Description

What are the web tools available to support group work and study teams? Actively use the current generation of web tools for communication, cooperation and collaboration during the class. Consider the factors involved in selecting technologies to match your instructional purposes. Examine strategies for team work within the context of the technology being used. Learn to assess collaborative and group projects

## Prerequisites

Students must have intermediate skills using a computer with Microsoft Windows, including browsing the Internet and downloading files from the Internet.

## Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Define what is meant by collaborative learning.
- Explain the difference between collaborative learning and cooperative learning.
- Define characteristics of an effective learning group.
- Explain the pedagogical rationale for collaborative learning.
- Describe the evidence that collaborative learning promotes and improves learning.
- List and give examples of current web technologies (Web 2.0) that can be used for collaborative learning.
- Select an appropriate web technology for particular learning objectives.
- Create a group project using a collaborative web technology.

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## Course Material

### Required Computer Equipment

Students are required to have the following computer equipment:

- Access to the Internet (high-speed connection highly recommended)
- An e-mail address
- Anti-virus software

The college will provide access to Blackboard software over the Internet.

### Text

Barkley, E., Cross, P. & Major, C. *Collaborative Learning Techniques, A Handbook for College Faculty*. Jossey-Bass. 2005.  
ISBN 13: 978-0787955183

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## Course Agenda

### Agenda

#### Introduction – the case for collaborative learning

- What is cooperative learning?
- What is collaborative learning?
- Is everyone happy with collaborative learning?

#### Implementing Collaborative Learning

- Introductions and icebreakers
- Orienting students
- Forming groups

### **Collaborative Learning Techniques**

- Techniques for Discussion
- Techniques for Reciprocal Teaching
- Techniques for Problem Solving
- Techniques for Graphic Information Organizers
- Techniques Focusing on Writing

### **Collaborative Learning Tools on the Web**

- Wikis
- Blogs
- Surveys or polls
- Web Office applications

### **Structuring the Learning Task**

- General Considerations
- Creating tasks that connect to broader course design
- Bloom's taxonomy for guidance on creating learning activities
- Design models and issues

### **Facilitating Student Collaboration**

- Introducing the activity
- Observing and interacting with groups
- Addressing problems
- Group reporting

### **Grading and Evaluating Collaborative Learning**

- Ensuring individual accountability
- General guidelines for grading collaborative work
- Important decisions in grading collaborative work

Lessons and assignment details are posted online. You should become familiar with the assignment dates to determine when materials are due and adjust your study schedule accordingly.

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## **Course Requirements**

### **Participation**

Participation in online assignments is a required part of this course. Participation for any discussion activities is expected during the time frame designated. Your participation in

discussion boards is evident by the thoughtfully crafted responses and questions that you post. Not posting messages is the equivalent of being absent. Students are expected to respond to the posts of fellow students, as well as post their own direct answers to discussion questions.

## Evaluation

Your evaluation will be based on completion of the following activities:

1. Discuss your impressions and experiences with group learning.
2. Describe the difference between collaborative and cooperative learning.
3. Explain why a particular collaborative learning technique would be appropriate for your classroom.
4. As part of a group, select a technique for discussion, reciprocal teaching, problem solving or writing and present it to the class.
5. As part of a group, use a collaborative web tool and describe to the class the technical aspects of using it.
6. Create a collaborative learning project and share it with the class.
7. Outline how you will assess student work for your project.

See more on the criteria for the evaluation of each assignment in the online assignments section.

Deductions will be made for assignments that are not submitted when due. All assignments must be completed by the end of the semester.

## Grading Scale

A	92 – 100 %
A-	90 – 91 %
B+	88-89%
B	82 – 87 %
B-	80-81 %
C+	78-79 %
C	72 – 77 %
C-	70-71 %
D	60 – 69 %
F	Below 60 %

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## Course Policies

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the National Labor College. You are responsible for reading the rules on plagiarism and making sure that you properly cite all sources – including personal conversations with others – in your written work. You must give proper credit to any ideas that are not your own.

### Late or Missed Assignments

Deductions will be made for assignments that are not submitted by a due date. All assignments must be completed by the end of the semester.

## Discussion Group Guidelines

When participating in online discussions keep the following in mind:

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion. Read, then discuss.
- When responding to others maintain threads by using the "Reply" button rather than starting a new topic.
- When starting a new topic choose a subject line that will identify the topic of your post to other students.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of other's ideas.
- Be cooperative with group leaders/members in completing group tasks.
- Be positive and constructive in group discussions.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

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