**OMDE 601 Assignment 1**

**Assignment Description**

You are asked to write a **short essay of 600 words (+/- 50 words)** on **ONE** of the following five topics:

**1. Traits which have characterized distance education since its inception.**  
*What traits characterize distance education not only now, but throughout its history?*

***2.*** **Real and simulated interaction in distance education.**  
*Which different types of communication are used in distance education and for what purposes?*

**3. Expectation and promotion of independence in distance education.**  
*To what extent does distance education expect students to be independent and to what extent does it promote students' independence?*

**4. On structuring subject-matter presentation in distance education.**  
*What is the significance of subject matter presentation in distance learning and what aspects are important when considering the structure and presentation of subject-matter?*

**5. How to support distance students' learning.**  
*In your view what are the most important measures to be taken to facilitate distance students' learning? Please include the aspects of course development, communication, and administration in your considerations.*

**Assessment/Grading Guidelines**

To guide you in the development of your essay, you should know that grading is done on the basis of quality and presentation of content, use of references, quality of the writing, and format and layout (weighted in descending order). To help you understand how your assignment will be graded, the grading rubric is included below. The assignment will be assessed by your instructors using these criteria. If you have any questions about the rubric, please post them here.

**You should use *at least* TWO scholarly references in support of your arguments within the essay.** These references should be from the required readings (to demonstrate your understanding of the readings) and/or from other scholarly sources (e.g., journals). Please be sure to apply APA correctly to your in-text citations and reference list (and remember to include a reference list).

Here are some additional guidelines to help you in preparing your assignment:

* **Use the topic as the header of your essay.** Do not change or modify anything.
* **Write on the chosen topic** and not anything else that might be related.
* **Make use of the required and additional readings.** This does not necessarily prevent you from introducing further readings. However, the assessment is based mainly on demonstrated mastery of the concepts introduced in the course readings.
* Whenever you cite the literature or a contribution to the conference discussion, please **refer to the source in such a way that it can be traced.**
* **Use** **APA style** **for your essays, citations and references.** Please take another close look at the course guide and your APA manual.
* **Adhere to the word count.** This is part of the essay requirement! Exact citations (direct quotes) are an additional component of your essays and do not count as part of the 600 words, but *should not exceed 10% of the allotted word count*.

*Please note that UMUC takes acts of plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, very seriously (see* [*Policy 150.25*](http://www.umuc.edu/policy/academic/aa15025.shtml)*). To avoid charges of plagiarism, be sure to cite your references completely and appropriately within your essay assignment. We strongly encourage you to submit your work to Turnitin Our TA can provide assistance with this process)****.******As a reminder, it is also expected that the work you submit for this class is original and authentic.*** *This means that you are the single author of your individual assignments and that you have not used this work in any other class, in this or any other academic program.*

This assignment is weighted at **25% of your final grade** in the course.

**Deadline**

The deadline for the submission of your essay is **11:59 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, 2010,** in each participant's respective time zone. Please submit your essays to the assignment folder under the **A1** tab as an attachment.

**Formatting/Submission Guidelines**

With respect to easy-to-handle file formats, we prefer *attachments*:

**Rich Text Format (\*.rtf)**  
Save your paper as a document in your office software and attach it in the WebTycho ***Submit Assignments Area*** in the left hand class menu. Please include your name, assignment number and the number of the topic in your file name **---> WaltiC\_A1\_3.docx.**  
**For security reasons please post the following note in the comment box when you submit your assignment and after you have scanned your file for viruses and malicious macros: Name and version of the program and the number/date of the latest database (dat)/signature update: "Scanned with  AVG Anti-Virus 9.0.819 with update 271.1.1/2891 May 23, 2010."**

For reasons of consistency, please use the following header on top of your essay:  
**[Your Name]  
[OMDE 601] [Section 9040]  
[Date]  
[Title of assignment] – Please use the topic as the header of your essay**

**Requesting an Extension**

If you are experiencing technical difficulties or if you need to ask for an extension, you may alert both of us by e-mailing to [CWalti@faculty.umuc.edu](mailto:CWalti@faculty.umuc.edu) and [LBlaschke@faculty.umuc.edu](mailto:LBlaschke@faculty.umuc.edu).  Extensions must be requested at least 48 hours before the assignment is due and only for reasons of utter urgency.

**Questions?**

Please bring up any questions regarding clarifications of the assignment here. All discussions relating to the content of the assignments should be posted to this main conference.

We expect to be able to provide feedback and grades within approximately 7-10 days after all assignments have been submitted.

We hope you enjoy reflecting on the question and writing the assignment.

Yours sincerely,  
Christine and Lisa