Designing for Communities of Inquiry in Online Courses

8 October - 11 November 2023

Meet the Instructors

Dr Nathaniel Ostashewski is Associate Professor of Open, Digital, and Distance Education at Athabasca University in Alberta, Canada. Dr Ostashewski teaches graduate courses in distance education, research design, educational technology and online and blended learning. He has been incorporating digital technology in teaching since 1990, both at the K12 and graduate education level. Since 1995 Nathaniel has been training educators how to incorporate technology-enabled learning into "worth-it" classroom, blended and online activities. Working at universities in Australia and Canada, he continues to develop and research high-quality large enrollment courses and MOOC designs that incorporate Community of Inquiry (CoI) and Networked Learning approaches. His extensive experience with digital media for education, online and blended instructional design/teaching strategies, and learner engagement tactics – which he is most willing to share with others – are evidenced in the MOOCs he designs and teaches. For more information, see https://tinyurl.com/mrbkdwzz.

Dr Martha Cleveland-Innes is Professor of Open, Digital, and Distance Education at Athabasca University. Dr Cleveland-Inness is the Editor-in-Chief of the bilingual Canadian Journal of Learning and Technology and the author of The Guide to Blended Learning. Martha is instructor, co-designer, and researcher for the open online courses Blended Learning Practice and Leading Change in Teaching and Learning for a Digital World. In 2019 Martha received an Honorary Doctorate from Mid-Sweden University and served as a member of the Advisory Group for Digital Literacy with the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education in 2021–2022. She was Virtual Educator in Residence at the National University of Singapore in Fall, 2022 and is currently Visiting Professor of Pedagogy at Mid-Sweden University.

For more information, see https://tinyurl.com/243e2ksr.

Certification

Two levels of certification are available, at no charge, based on your level of participation and completion of activities:

- **Certificate of Participation** requires a minimum of 70% on each quiz and participation in at least three discussion forums.
- **Certificate of Completion** requires a minimum of 70% on each quiz, participation in at least three discussion forums and successful completion of a CoI Implementation Plan.

Registration

For further information and registration, go to:
https://www.dcoimooc.org
DCOI inquiries: info@dcoimooc.org

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Course Description

The Community of Inquiry (CoI) is a pedagogical model that supports digital teaching and learning: online, in-person, and blended. Education for contemporary, digital societies is a complex process that requires the design and delivery of a thoughtful interplay between the instructor, student interactions, and course resources. The CoI framework gets to the heart of establishing and sustaining multi-modal educational experiences through the development of interdependent elements: social, cognitive and teaching presence.

The Designing for Communities of Inquiry in Online Courses (DCOI) massive open online course (MOOC) will explore the why and how of using the CoI as the basis for developing and teaching high-quality online and blended courses. In this course, we highlight practical ways of helping students learn through active participation and shared sense-making. Current CoI application issues related to shared metacognition, learning analytics and artificial intelligence will also be explored in this highly-engaging inquiry-based MOOC.

The CoI provides a meaningful 21st century framework for digital education pedagogy. Educators, designers and administrators will all benefit from taking this course to learn about the CoI and how it supports learning, now and into the future.

Learning Outcomes

You will be able to:

- Discuss the important foundational elements of online learning
- Describe the philosophical and theoretical foundations of the CoI model
- Identify the three components of the CoI and their design elements
- Apply CoI standard and emerging design elements as tested in recent research
- Use the CoI survey to review courses and programmes and conduct action research on building CoI
- Design a CoI implementation plan for an online course and beyond

Who Should Participate?

This free, 5-week course offered by the Commonwealth of Learning in collaboration with Athabasca University is open to anyone, anywhere, and is mobile-friendly. DCOI has been designed to assist professors, teachers, instructional designers, education developers, and education technology specialists to rethink pedagogical processes and develop appropriate action plans for techno-pedagogical change within their own context.

At a Glance

Schedule	8 October to 11 November 2023 (5 weeks)
Intended audience	K-12, higher education, and vocational education teachers, administrators, and other educational professionals from the Commonwealth and around the world
Language	English
Expected workload	5 hours per week (25 hours total)
Challenge level	Introductory
Prerequisites	None
Certification	Certificates of Participation and Completion are available at no charge

Course Details

Week 1 Foundations of Online Teaching and Learning

Topic 1.1: History of Online Teaching and Learning

Topic 1.2: Media in Education

Topic 1.3: Educational Interactions and Learning Engagement

Week 2 Elements of the Community of Inquiry Framework

Topic 2.1: Cognitive Presence

Topic 2.2: Teaching Presence

Topic 2.3: Social Presence
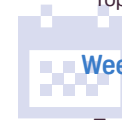
Topic 2.4: Emotional, Learner and Other Presences

Week 3 Roles, Strategies & Tactics Implementing the CoI

Topic 3.1: Roles of the Instructor

Topic 3.2: Roles of the Learner

Topic 3.3: Tactics and Strategies for Building CoI

Week 4 Designing and Sustaining Online Communities of Inquiry

Topic 4.1: Designing Online Courses

Topic 4.2: Designing Online CoI

Week 5 Exploring and Assessing Elements of Quality for CoI

Topic 5.1: Examining the CoI Survey Instruments

Topic 5.2: Assessing for Quality CoI Elements

ONLINE TEACHING • STRATEGY • QUALITY CONTROL • BLENDED EDUCATION