Week 5 – LMS Selection & Specifications

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OTL531K – Models of E-Learning and Instructional Design

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LMS Selection & Specifications	
Name of the LMS	Schoology (www.schoology.com)
Cost of the LMS (open source? commercial?)	Free (commercial)
3 advantages to the LMS	1 Cross-device integration
	2 Streamlined Layout (easy to use)
	3 Easy to see student participation
3 disadvantages to the LMS	1 Not as many users as other LMS software (collaboration opportunities)
	2 Not open source
	3 Not as many apps as some other LMS software
Identify 3 Instructional Strategies this LMS offers that you feel would be beneficial in a class you would develop	1 Collaboration with peers (Marzano, 2001)
	2 Setting Objectives and Feedback (Marzano, 2001)
	3 Authentic Practice and assessment (Wiggins, 1990)

The course I would be designing would be a flipped classroom experience. It would have to be a pilot program at first because the school I work for is still quite traditional and has a location I doubt they would be quick to give up on. This would mean that I would need a free service because they would probably not be interested in an investment for this experiment. With those ideas in mind, I looked for an open source and/or free LMS. The LMS I chose works well with all nice of Marzano's strategies as well (Marzano, 2001).

After reviewing many, I decided Schoology would be the best, in part, because of its ability to work seamlessly across devices. A student can work on a computer, ipad/tablet, phone, or even in Kindle and be able to submit their assignment directly and easily to the instructor. The main page and view of discussions are smooth and easy to understand.

I really want to make sure using the software is easy for the students and teachers, especially since it will be in a second language for them. The other LMS software was too cluttered and made it hard to find assignments or due dates.

I want to encourage collaboration in class, so adding it as part of the course is easier than other LMS software because the software analytics show how often students post to the discussion board. This makes keeping track of students and offering feedback more timely (Wiggins, 2012).

The customization options on Schoology allows for authentic assessment opportunities by creating your own assessments. "Authentic assessments require students to be effective performers with acquired knowledge" (Wiggins, 1990). Although Schoology still offers traditional testing options, it allows for more control over assessment, which would benefit a course designed using backward design more easily.

References

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