Innovate Inside the [Virtual] Box with UDL
Self Paced Course

45 Continuing Education hours | 3 continuing education graduate credits*

Meet the Authors and Course Designers

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Course Description

COVID-19 has kept more than a billion students out of the physical classroom, and has required us as practitioners to change practices overnight. As much as it feels like we have to change everything and that we are working outside the box - we are very much still operating "inside the box" where we have to meet district expectations while at home. Although it feels like everything is changing, the "core" of innovative teaching and learning continues to provide a foundation for our own success, and the success of our learners. This course, *Innovate In the [Virtual] Box with UDL*, will focus on the four components of the core of innovation as outlined in our book, *Innovate Inside the Box: Empowering Learners Through UDL and the Innovator's Mindset* and then help to scale the core and the Innovator's Mindset through the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). This course is designed to provide real-time collaboration with educators from around the world using our book and the UDL framework. In every unit, we will provide a variety of resources to increase options for representation and increase engagement throughout the course. Additionally, there will be numerous options to participate in discussions to ensure that your reflections and connections are relevant, authentic, and meaningful. Take advantage of each other's brilliance because as George says, "The smartest person in the room, IS the room." Take a short break from your classes every day to connect with like-minded educators and get strategies to implement immediately with students and their families.

Course Objectives

- Increase your toolbox of strategies to build relationships with students and their families while providing opportunities for remote learning.
- Learn how to use authentic forms of evidence to inform teaching and learning now that (thankfully!) we must look beyond standardized test scores.
- Learn and share examples of "empowered learning" in remote learning environments.
- Reflect on how transitioning to emergency support for students will shift practices in the future to be more universally designed.
- Understand how each of the characteristics of the Innovator's Mindset can be fostered through implementation of Universal Design for Learning.

Discussions

Discussions are important to your learning and help you form a community and connect with your peers. While your responses will not be graded, we highly encourage you to participate by responding and interacting with your classmates.

Note: The discussion forum accepts all file types, so you can contribute in writing or scale your voice by starting a blog or a podcast or video blog, and then posting the link. You can also post infographics, PDFs, audio and video files, and/or multimedia presentations. The options below may support you in creating your discussion postings.

- Write a traditional discussion post.
- Record a video or audio clip (please keep it to 3 minutes or less).
- Post student work and reflect on the contribution
- Create a multimedia presentation or visual representation like a vision board or sketch notes or use Canva to create an infographic.

Course Schedule

MODULE	Topics
1	**Module 1: Relationships Are First. Everything Else is a Distant Second** **Objectives** - Reflect on the power of relationships to support student learning and wellbeing, especially in light of COVID-19 - Learn innovative ways to stay in contact with students and their families to foster meaningful relationships - Explore the importance of collegial relationships and professional learning communities while social distancing **Essential Question** *Why are relationships at the core of innovative teaching and learning and UDL?*

Activities
1. Read "Foreword," "Because of a Teacher" and "Chapter 1: Relationships" in *Innovate Inside the Box*
2. Engage in a discussion with your classmates using multiple means of action and expression
3. Explore 2-3 resources from the course module resource list

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Module 2: Learner-Driven, Evidence Informed

Objectives
- Learn how to use authentic forms of evidence to inform teaching and learning now that (thankfully!) we must look beyond standardized test scores.

- Learn how to universally design learning as a result of authentic evidence collection

Essential Question
- *How can educators design authentic learning experiences that are responsive to evidence without feeling glued to standardized testing data?*

Activities
1. Read "Chapter 2: Learner-Driven, Evidence-Informed" in *Innovate Inside the Box*
2. Engage in a discussion with your classmates using multiple means of action and expression
3. Explore 2-3 resources from the course module resource list

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Module 3: Empowered Learning Experiences

Objectives
- Learn and share examples of "empowered learning" in remote learning environments

Essential Questions
- *How can we empower learners when supporting their learning remotely? What barriers do you foresee and how can you minimize them through universal design?*

Activities
1. Read "Chapter 3: Creating Empowered Learning Experiences" in *Innovate Inside the Box*
2. Engage in a discussion with your classmates using multiple means of action and expression
3. Explore 2-3 resources from the course module resource list

(4)

Module 4: Master Learner, Master Educator

Objectives
- Reflect on how transitioning to emergency support for students will shift practices in the future to be more universally designed.

Essential Question
- How can we model empowered learning as we focus on our own learning during this crisis?

Activities

- Read "Chapter 4: Master Learner, Master Educator"and Part I summary in *Innovate Inside the Box*
- Engage in a discussion with your classmates using multiple means of action and expression
- Explore 2-3 resources from the course module resource list

(5)

Module 5: Fostering Empathy, Problem Finders/Solutions, Risk-Takers and Networking

Objectives
- Learn and apply concrete strategies for building characteristics of the Innovator's Mindset through the principles of Universal Design for Learning.

Essential Question
- How can we foster characteristics of the Innovator's Mindset (empathy, problem finders/solutions, risk-takers, and networking) through UDL in remote learning settings?

Activities

- Read "Chapters 5-8: in *Innovate Inside the Box*
- Engage in a discussion with your classmates using multiple means of action and expression
- Explore 2-3 resources from the course module resource list

(6)

Module 6: Fostering Observance, Creation, Resilience, and Reflection

Objectives
- Learn and apply concrete strategies for building characteristics of the Innovator's Mindset through the principles of Universal Design for Learning.

Essential Question
- How can we foster characteristics of the Innovator's Mindset (observant, creators, resilient, reflective) through UDL in remote learning settings?

Activities

- Read "Chapters 9-12: in *Innovate Inside the Box*
- Engage in a discussion with your classmates using multiple means of action and expression
- Explore 2-3 resources from the course module resource list

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Module 7: Lead From Where You Are

Objectives

- Learn and apply concrete strategies for scaling innovation and Universal Design for Learning regardless of your position in education

Essential Question

- How can we foster characteristics of the Innovator's Mindset and UDL by diffusing the innovations we have learned with multiple stakeholders?

Activities

- Read "Chapters 13: in Innovate Inside the Box: "Lead from Where you Are"
- Engage in a discussion with your classmates using multiple means of action and expression
- Explore 2-3 resources from the course module resource list

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Module 8: You Are the Core

Objectives

- Recognize the power and privilege you have to change the trajectory of the lives you serve through education

Essential Question

- How can we commit to expert learning, through UDL and the core of teaching and learning to eliminate inequities and scale opportunity and empower all learners?

Activities

- Read Chapter 14: in *Innovate Inside the Box*, "You Are the Core."
- Engage in a discussion with your classmates using multiple means of action and expression

With additional registration and fee