

## Collaboration, Teams and Communities in Learning

TADL 6285

### Course Outline

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#### Description:

Teaching and learning rarely occurs in isolation and, instead, is more often the result collaboration, teamwork, and communities. This interactive course will explore various concepts and theories, including team development, community building, and collaborative leadership. Learners will engage in reflection on past experience with group dynamics while active within their own blended community of practice, investigating research questions of interest to this unique team of practitioners.

#### Course Goals:

By forming a community of practice in order to answer class-generated research questions, it is hoped that participants will engage in real-time with concepts covered in this course. The class will culminate in an opportunity to share research findings and to reflect on the notions of collaboration, teams, and communities in educational settings.

#### Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Define collaboration, teams, and communities in learning;
- Describe the foundations of the collaborative approach to learning theory and pedagogy;
- Comment on the benefits and limits of team-based approaches;
- Explain the stages of development of a community or team;
- Compare and contrast the role of collaborative leadership in both face-to-face and online learning environments; and,
- Draw upon past and current experience with communities of practice to inform future approaches to community learning.

#### Attendance Requirements:

- To complete this course, active participation is required and participants must attend 100% of the in class portion of this course.

#### Evaluation:

Classroom engagement (in-class)	15%
Classroom engagement (online)	15%
Reflection paper	20%
Research project	50%

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## Methods of Evaluation:

*Note: Detailed instructions and grading rubrics can be found in the Assignments tab in OWL.*

## Notes on assignments (papers and reports):

- Must be academic in style and content
- Must have a clear focus
- Must present ideas in a logical and well thought-out flow
- Arguments, analysis and conclusions must be based on clearly identified research and sources
- Must cite all references from other sources
- Must be in paragraph format
- Must be double-spaced, and typewritten
- Must follow APA style

## Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct:

Academic honesty is a cornerstone of conduct at Western University. We cannot have freedom of expression without integrity. Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences; please refer to the section on “Scholastic Offences” in the current University Academic Calendar, or on the web at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in this University or elsewhere (without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom the work is submitted). Students enrolled in non-degree courses are expected to abide by the University’s code of conduct.

## Code of Student Conduct:

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For the complete Code of Student Conduct: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>.

## Plagiarism:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com>).

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## Course Schedule:

### Day 1

- Welcome and course overview
- Collaboration
- Theoretical perspectives
- Teams
- Community, an introduction
- Research Project

### Day 1 to Day 19

- Online community contributions
- Research project community participation

### Day 19

- Review of previous learning, activities
- Communities of Practice
- Community of Inquiry Framework
- Learning and Community
- Research Reports
- Final Task