

Module 1

Video-Introduction Transcript

“Congratulations on going through the “Start Here” page and completing the preface to Module 1. You will find that preface useful and increasingly meaningful as the course progresses.

As you notice, DOTS looks quite different from the Blackboard courses you may be more familiar with. The cosmetic and delivery differences complement deeper important differences, related to the design process and quality standards employed.

This first module introduces you systematically, but also by example, to both the design process, established in the 1980s under the name Backward Design, and the quality standards that guided us, outlined by Quality Matters, a faculty-centered course-enhancement process, sponsored by a consortium of Maryland colleges and universities and utilized nationally.

For the next seven days, we will work together online to build our online course community. You will be asked to

- introduce yourselves and tell us what you hope to get out of this course,
- use the module’s resources to interpret a short version of the Quality Matters standards and apply it to the evaluation of a sample online course, and finally
- work together with your colleagues and the facilitators to come up with a commonly agreed upon short-list of pros and cons within the reviewed course, which you can justify with the help of the module’s resources and can have inform your own work.

By the way, don’t let the fact that I was also the instructor of the reviewed course stop you from being as critical as you can. Please be critical!

We expect all online activities to be completed by early Friday morning, in time for our first face-to-face meeting, on Friday the 24th, which will conclude the module.

As will be the case with all our face-to-face meetings, we’ll have a full schedule, wrapping up our online week with your comments and concerns and participating in presentations and workshops that address the tools showcased in the online portion of the course.

Highlights for this upcoming Friday include introductions by the program directors, a remote presentation by Professor Rebecca Weintraub from the University of Southern California, and a workshop familiarizing you with your new tablet computer.

So, let’s proceed with Module 1.

I’ll be with you throughout this online week and look forward to seeing you in person on the 24th.”