

## **OMDE690 The Distance Education Project and Portfolio**

There are two tasks required in OMDE690: Completion of a Project and a Portfolio. It is estimated that your time investment should be approximately 2/3 on the Project and 1/3 on the Portfolio. Both the Project and the Portfolio must be achieved with 15 weeks.

The workload for this 3 credit course is similar to the workload of other OMDE courses. It is estimated that a 3 credit course requires a MINIMUM of 150 hours of work, but may require more.

### **What is a Project?**

The Project should come from your experiences within the MDE program. You need to think through the courses and content that you have so far completed and determine if a particular aspect of distance education has peaked your interest. You need to also analyze each further course that you take with the idea that you might be interested in further exploring something that interests you. Try maintaining an file that contains these kinds of ideas, and feel free to note down *anything* that interests you, no matter how trivial or huge. When it comes time to propose a 690 project, you can then look through this list.

The 690 project is designed to be an “inclusive” activity. The distance education project will reflect your sophistication in and knowledge of the field and asks to you create an outcome that is worthy of a professional in the field. This means that we expect the project to be kind of like an “apprentice piece”, where the apprentice furniture maker designs and creates a piece of furniture that shows off his/her skills as a master furniture maker.

Any other approach to the Distance Education Project would be a matter of negotiation with the OMDE690 faculty.

### **What is a Portfolio?**

Each Master's student will work towards the development of a personal portfolio. The goal of the portfolio is to demonstrate your qualifications gained in the field and to provide evidence of your competencies and skills in a variety of disciplines/roles. It is our hope that this Portfolio would end up being your passport to the professional world.

The portfolio contains formal and voluntary documents. Formal documents are appropriate assignments and other contributions to the final grades in each course. Obviously you will want to choose your best. Voluntary documents may show any other kind of active participation while you have been enrolled in the Master's program. These voluntary contributions allow students to show their

proficiency and skills as a professional distance educator. In addition, the Portfolio will contain your Resume or Curriculum Vita, and may contain a photograph and graphics. This portfolio is a requirement for successful completion of the final Distance Education Project course.

Each student is responsible for keeping a permanent copy of the various assignments and documents from each course. You should not rely on WebTycho to be your storage area nor should you rely on a UMUC student computer account, since these will sometimes be deleted. You should keep copies on your own computer and remember to keep (several) back up copies on floppy disks.

## **Assessment**

OMDE690 will be graded on a Pass/Fail basis. Projects may be published internally (within the MDE program - accessible only to MDE students). Some Projects will be judged as publishable to the external community. There may be some exceptions to this policy to protect some content or people. These decisions will be made by the two Directors from UMUC and Oldenburg.

## **Due Dates**

The outline or Project plan should be submitted by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week. A draft of the portfolio should be submitted by the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> week.

## **Format of the Project and Portfolio**

The Portfolio **MUST** be submitted as a webpage /website. We also strongly urge you to submit your final project as a web document or website.

Therefore, we highly recommend that all MDE students purchase web development software (such as Dreamweaver) and learn how to adequately use it.