COLAB 201
Collaborative Learning Using Web 2.0 / eLearning 2.0 Approaches

<u>Facilitator:</u>
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The purpose of this course is to give you an opportunity to learn about collaborative learning by participating in collaborative learning. This course is designed to teach how to design and build collaborative learning experiences using Web 2.0 / eLearning 2.0 approaches.

What is Collaborative Learning? It's participatory learning where students work together in a variety of ways to help themselves learn and each other learn. It is an important topic in Training because it addresses aspects of informal learning and is especially appropriate for learning beyond the basics. In other words, if you are introducing a new topic to a relatively inexperienced audience, then collaborative learning is probably not appropriate. But if you are helping more experienced professionals gain knowledge and skills, it is critical that you know about collaborative learning techniques. Further, because collaborative learning intersects with communities of practice and informal learning, and because collaboration today is much easier due to technology, this is going to be a critical topic over the next five years.

In this course, we are going to work together using a variety of tools and techniques to help us all better understand what works and doesn't work in collaborative learning experiences.

Course Format

This course is designed as an attempt to maximize your understanding and experience with collaborative learning. The only way to really appreciate collaborative learning is to be both a student and a facilitator in a collaborative learning environment. This course is designed to provide you that opportunity.

The course will use collaborative learning techniques to examine and/or use the following:

- Collaborative Learning Design
- Blogs
- Wikis
- Discussion groups
- RSS Feeds / Aggregators
- Podcasts
- Social Networking
- Social Bookmarking
- Facilitation / Moderation

This course will operate with small groups of people who will work through the topics together over the course of 6 weeks.

Course Schedule & Logistics

The course will be run from April 11, 2006 until May 16, 2006 (6 weeks).

We will have weekly synchronous discussions on Tuesdays at 4PM Pacific Time unless we reach another time that works for everyone. The first meeting will be:

Tuesday, April 11th
4PM Pacific Time

Beyond this weekly meeting, all other work is asynchronous.

Each week you will be given a small assignment that normally involves using a few of the above topics to explore aspects of collaborative learning. They will vary in shape and size, but will not take more than a few hours (3-5) to complete and will likely be fun enough that it won't feel like work.

Every student is expected to participate each day at least for a few minutes in order to be able to respond to other students' discussion topics and to keep things moving.

Students

You would be a good student if you:

A. Have an interest in LEARNING / TRAINING, preferred that you are involved in instruction, instructional design and development, or eLearning

B. Interested in EXPERIMENTING with Web 2.0 and eLearning 2.0 tools

C. Can spend about 3-5 hours per week, and a few minutes daily, and are self-initiating

D. Have fairly good communication and writing skills

E. Are interested in working alone and with others as part of learning

We will be trying to recruit people from a variety of backgrounds to participate to provide different perspectives.

It would be fun if we can have pairs of individuals who know each other prior to the course, because that will add to the dynamic within the course. In other words, feel free to bring a friend.

Enrollment

All students must be approved by the facilitator prior to enrollment in the course. The group will be limited in size and it is expected that we will not be able to accommodate all people who are interested.

Enrollment and basic course logistics will be done through www.Nuvvo.com.

The course will be FREE. And all software used will be FREE. However, telephone calls during the weekly meetings are to a U.S. phone number, so there will be cost for those calls.

If you are interested, please contact the facilitator Tony Karrer: akarrer@techempower.com

Please include brief information about relevant background and why you are interested in the course.