

Course Synthesis
EDU 7701- Research and Development in Instructional Strategies
Dr. Smith
Summer 2011

In this course, Dr. Smith provided the cohort with the time and opportunity to study, reflect, and interpret current research as it relates to teaching and learning in the 21st century, Japanese lesson study, and Web 2.0 tools. Prior to the start of class, Dr. Smith required the completion of several assignments related to 21st century learning. We compared and contrasted Web 2.0 tools and Web 1.0 tools, as well as examined and investigated Web 2.0 websites, tools, and new technologies. Moving into the 21st century, educational leaders must be prepared to confront the challenges of the ever changing world of technology. By creating a school culture deeply rooted in lifelong learning, instructional leaders can successfully guide educators and students into a global world connected through technology.

One of the more notable elements of this course was our learning \ of the Japanese Lesson Study model. We studied Japanese Lesson Study by watching video clips and comparing this instructional methodology to the traditional methods utilized in the United States. By examining the Japanese Lesson Study Model, we discovered how the differences between Japanese and American systems for teaching and learning was directly related to the planning process and the time designated for colleagues to reflect and debrief following the lesson. Furthermore, the efficacy of this model was quite clear and in deep contrast to our American system.

Using the framework of the Japanese Lesson Study model, our cohort created a lesson on Moodle based on the Jamestown Colony Adventure. At the culmination of the project, group members critiqued each others' Moodle lesson plans and provided constructive, meaningful, targeted feedback. Having the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues in the development of the lesson plan and then allowing colleagues to critique one another led to our own "in-house" Japanese style lesson study model.