

Final Project Reflection

IT 578 // Spring 2015 // Dr. Sutton

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Team group process evaluation

Overall, my team group process went smoothly. I worked with Cheryl on Modules 2 and 3. In the beginning, though, we worked with Duren and Lisa to reorganize Module 3 into “evacuation emergencies” and Module 4 into “stay-in-place emergencies”. Once we had the modules set, Cheryl and I fell into taking a lead on a module with her tackling Module 2 and me taking on Module 3. This worked well for us especially since we have worked together in previous classes, and we were not afraid about asking each other for help or feedback with the modules we took the lead on. At the same time, I felt like our whole class was one big team group because it seemed like we all collaborated directly or indirectly at some point. All of us have had previous classes together, so I felt like our personalities meshed well together, and we all were, for the most part, willing to go that extra mile if something needed to be changed.

Individual contribution evaluation

Being a special education teacher, I enjoyed thinking through and learning about ADA compliance issues involved in the online learning environment. I hope my contribution toward making our modules ADA compliant will have a positive impact on all learners who take our course. I also volunteered to help Jamie with Module 1 if she needed anything, which she didn't. When it comes to group projects, I always worry that I'm not pulling my weight, so, at times, I may overcompensate by trying to do too much or something someone else said they would do. I think I did better this semester in that department. Also, it helped that I was able to channel some of that inclination to earning my extra points toward an A.

Teammates feedback

In her ID practice and teamwork, Cheryl should

(1) start ... this is a tough one. My advice would be for her to try things that are out of her comfort zone, but I'm not exactly sure what that would be. I know she is an awesome photographer and design whiz, so I wonder if there is an area she is not as comfortable that she could work on.

(2) stop being too critical of her own ideas or maybe to phrase it more positively – be more confident with her ideas.

(3) continue being a good communicator whether it be in class, text, or email.

In her ID practice and teamwork, Dr. Sutton should

(1) start thinking about how students could be more involved in the usability testing. I know time and scheduling were an issue this semester, but I wonder if in the future it could be worked in somehow. Maybe I'm a weird one, but I would have liked to be able to talk to the staff members who went through our modules. I would have asked them more questions about my module and the course in general.

(2) stop delegating some of our work to her staff. While I truly appreciate their help and am thankful for the time they saved me, I kind of feel like we should have been fully responsible for any changes.

(3) continue to be a cheerleader who makes her students feel like competent, capable instructional designers.

What I have learned

To say I have learned a lot this semester is an understatement. By working with a real-world client to design a real online course, I was able to practice all of the skills I have been developing over the course of my master's program. The work we did this semester also made it even clearer just how iterative in nature the instructional design process truly is. Even though the semester is over, I still feel ownership of the work we have done. I wish there was a way to continue to be involved in the course design so that when people start taking it I could go in and tweak things if, for example, everyone was getting Module 3 quiz question 2 wrong, or if Darrell got feedback about something and wanted it updated. I am proud of our work.

Course and client project development feedback

IT 578 has been my favorite class so far. The assignments and activities were sequenced in a way that made sense and with enough room for flexibility in due dates, which I appreciated. I also liked the accountability of having to give Lisa a status update each week during our prototype design phase. One suggestion I have to make the experience more effective would be to include one more face-to-face team meeting with the client or maybe just the design team. I know we met weekly online to talk about things, but due to previous classes we have had together I don't think we were all comfortable talking freely online (without raising our hands). In particular, I think it would have been helpful to meet face-to-face after receiving the usability testing feedback.