

Topics and Timetable for 2012

Weeks 1 - 7	Class sessions	Topics
1 . 5 to 11 March Introduction to Flexible Learning (FL)	Web conference: Wed 7 March: 13:00-14:00 Workshop: Thurs 8 March Onsite: 13:00-15:00 Venue: H606	Orientation to the course and the class participants in a workshop – choose either time. Activity one: Set up blog and introduce yourself and your work.
2. 12 to 18 March What is Flexible Learning?	Work on learning activities.	Discuss the concepts of flexibility in learning (five dimensions). Activity two –Define flexible learning in your context, and discuss reasons for using flexible approaches.
3. 19 – 25 March Trends and Examples of Flexible Learning	Web conference: Tues 20 March: 13:00-14:00	Explore examples of flexible learning – blended, online, recognition of prior learning (RPL). Activity three – Investigate and describe an example of flexible learning in your organisation.
4. & 5. (2 wks) 26 March to 8 April Access & equity Diversity & Inclusivity	Web conference: Wed 28 March: 13:00-14:00 Workshop: Thurs 29 March Onsite: 13:00-15:00 Venue: H606	Considerations for ensuring access to all learners, and factors of diversity ¹ will be examined. Your learners’ preferences and abilities will be discussed. Activity four –Define and describe this week’s concepts in your professional context.
Easter break and mid term break - 19 April to 22 April (2 weeks)		
6. 23 to 29 April Designing strategies for Flexible Learning	Web conference: Wed 25 April: 13:00-14:00 Workshop: Thurs 26 April Onsite: 13:00-15:00 Venue: H606	Designing strategies for flexible learning will cover four areas: content, learning activities, communication/interaction and assessment. Activity five – Design and describe FL strategies for your context.
7. 30 April to 6 May Planning Flexible Learning	Work on learning activities.	Discuss ideas and strategies for your Flexible Learning plan. Activity six – Begin developing the Flexible Learning plan on your blog using the template.
8. 7 to 13 May Open Education Resources (OER)	Web conference: Tues 8 May: 13:00-14:00	Investigate the way that OER could be used in your context, and select an aspect to explore. Activity seven – Define OER in your context, and describe an aspect you could use.

¹ gender, socioeconomic, ethnicity, learning etc.

Weeks 9 - 15	Class sessions	Topics
9. 14 to 20 May Adult learning theories and approaches	Work on learning activities.	Explore adult learning theories and approaches, and choose one to underpin flexible learning in your context. Activity eight – Describe the learning theory underpinning your plan.
10. 21 to 27 May Technologies for learning	Web conference: Wed 23 May: 13:00-14:00 Workshop: Thurs 24 May Onsite: 13:00-15:00 Venue: H606	Trends in learning and teaching technologies (e.g., mobile devices, ePortfolios, social media etc.) will be defined and explored. Activity nine – Familiarise yourself with the Horizon report. Design a learning activity using a ‘trend’ technology, and describe or demonstrate it to the class - indicate how the technology encourages flexible learning.
11. 28 May to 3 June Sustainable Flexible Learning	Work on learning activities.	Investigate ways to ensure sustainable methods are used for learning. Activity ten – Define and describe this week’s concept in your professional context.
12. 4 to 10 June Cultural sensitivity & indigenous learners	Web conference: Tues 5 June 13:00 – 14:00	Indigenous learners and flexible learning. For example critical success factors for Maori and Pacific Island students will be explored. Activity eleven - Define and describe this week’s concepts in your professional context.
13. 11 to 17 June Organisational policies & strategy	Work on learning activities.	Factors in your organisation which might influence flexible learning are investigated. Activity twelve - Outline how your FL plan fits within your organisation.
14. 18 to 24 June Feedback on your Flexible Learning Plan	Web conference: Wed 20 June: 13:00-14:00 Workshop: Thurs 21 June Onsite: 13:00-15:00 Venue: H606	Choose a format for the presentation and prepare for the mini-conference. Activity thirteen - work on finalising your flexible learning plans, including posting the draft plan to your blog. Also discuss your plan in class if possible.
15. 25 June to 1 July Presentation of Flexible Learning plans	Mini-conference: Web conference: Wed 27 June 13:00-14:00 Onsite: Thurs 28 June 13:00-15:00 Venue: H606	Assessment: Present your final Flexible Learning plan – face-to-face, in a web conference or online. Final date for submission of assessments: 2 July 2012