

A 3D rendering of a world map in white, with the letters 'WWW' in large, metallic, 3D font above it. The map and text are set against a light gray background. A blue curved banner is at the bottom of the image.

WWW

INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING THROUGH THEMATIC LEARNING MODULES

Diane Boothe, Boise State University, USA
Craig Marcus, Oregon State University, USA
Melissa Caspary, Georgia Gwinnett College, USA

Demand for Innovative Language Learning and Teaching Across the Globe

Forefront of trends in education

Dominates academic discussions

Impacts

The impacts of ICT significantly contribute to curriculum development and have reinvigorated every aspect of our profession.

Transformation

Global professional education community has experienced change in monumental proportions related to content knowledge and language learning.

INTRODUCTION

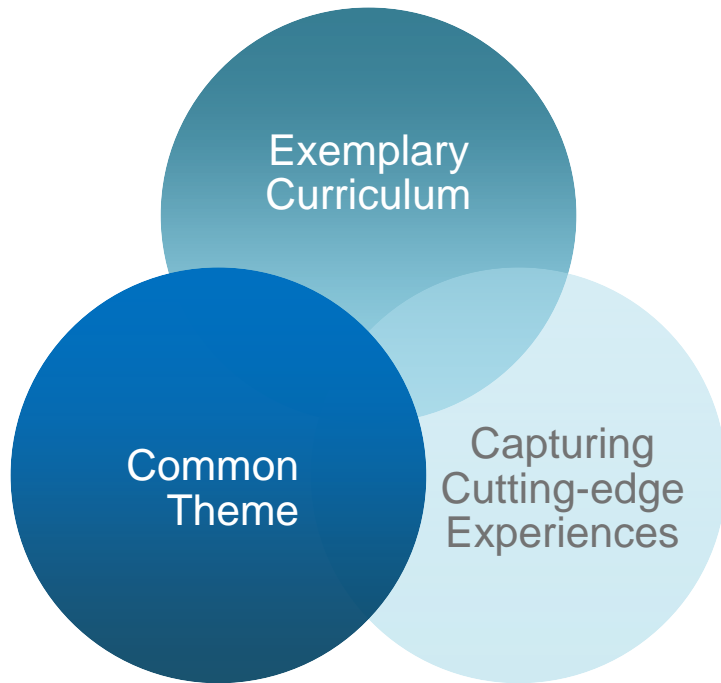
Demands and trends



- Demand for online coursework continues to be at the forefront of trends in education
- Students must acquire knowledge and make connections
- Economic impact of online education is significant
- Business and industry dramatically contribute to our responsibilities



THEMATIC LEARNING MODULES: OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS

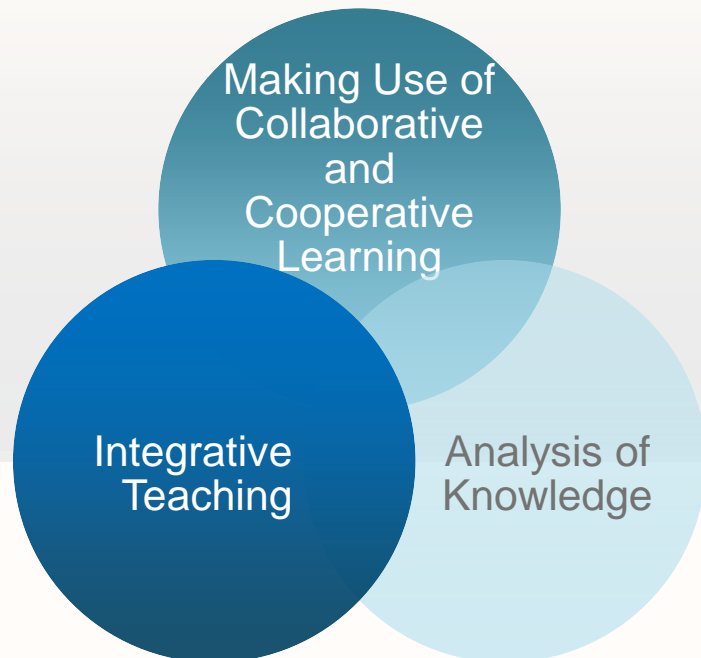


Key Components of
These Endeavors

CONVERSATIONS IN EVER WIDENING CIRCLES:

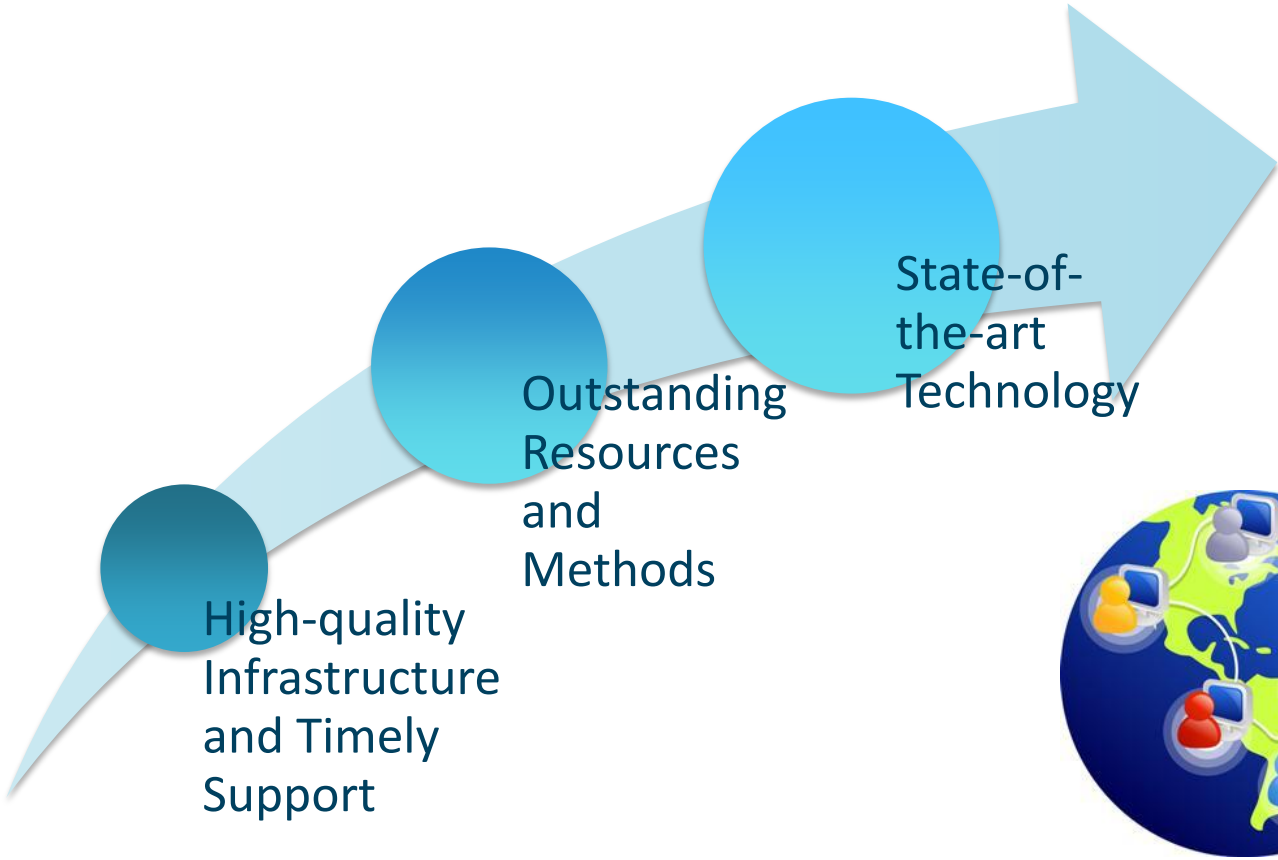


SUBSTANTIATING THE NEED



Interdisciplinary Approaches for Success

Thematic learning modules: Activities essential to ensure a level of success



Thematic Learning Modules and Integrated Learning

Cross Disciplinary

- **Creative resources:
Cognitive function**
- **Aligning course content and online platforms**

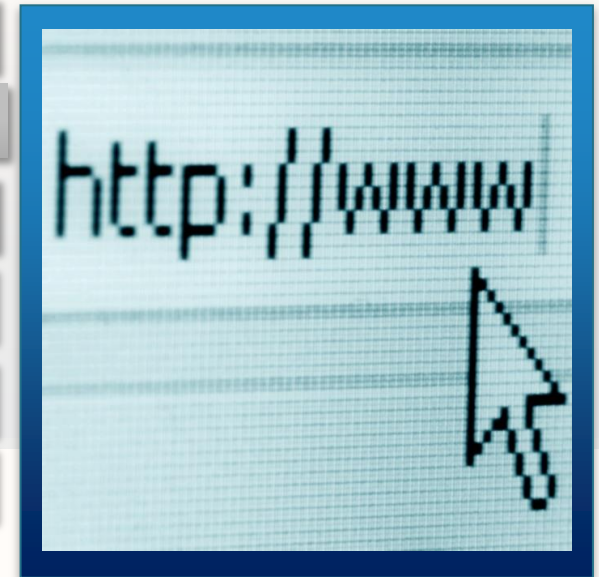


Language Learning

- **Cultural Diversity**
- **Critical Issues and Practices for English Language Learners**
- **Equitable Learning Field**

Framework for Thematic Learning Modules

- 1 Determine and Design-Common Theme
- 2 Integrate Theme with Existing Curriculum
- 3 Design Instruction and Co-Curricular Plans
- 4 ICT Resources for Conceptual and Language Learning
- 5 Acquire Discipline Specific Language
- 6 Group Activities and Discussion



THE QUESTION



In an electronically interconnected, socially networked world how do we meet the needs of learners with high expectations in content and language for interactive instructional technologies as education is transformed for 21st century learners?



Technological advancements



1 Validity

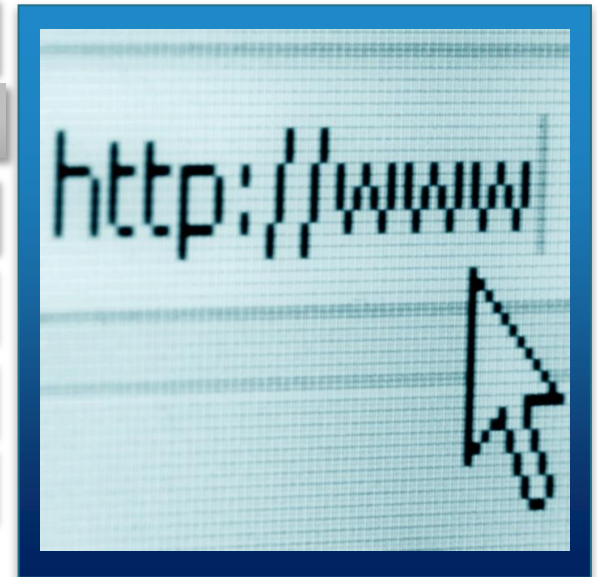
2 Verifiability

3 Delivery platform

- Powerful instruments for reaching students
- Require flexibility and acomodation

Thematic Course Development and Delivery

- 1 Design-Common theme
- 2 Real world experiences
- 3 Explore and expand knowledge
- 4 ICT resources for conceptual and language learning
- 5 Acquire discipline specific language
- 6 Interaction skills, motivated, challenged



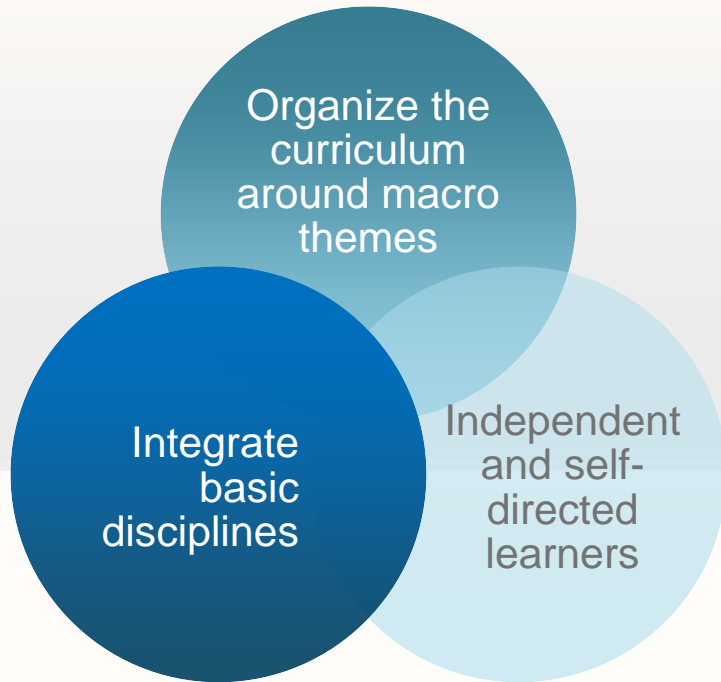
PROMOTING HIGH LEVELS OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



- **Addressing complex and diverse needs of English Language Learners.**
- **Educators must develop multi-dimensional technologies to address the specific needs of these students.**
- **The pedagogical potential to enhance teaching and learning for linguistically diverse students is central to goals and objectives of online course design.**



THEMATIC LEARNING MODULES: Key Components of These Endeavors



Recognize the interrelatedness of Content, Language and Culture

Selecting Themes for Interdisciplinary Units

Can be developed by educators or students but should be integrated across the curriculum

Serve as a lens to understand and examine content

Generative provocative questions presented from multi-discipline perspective

Selected for relevance and interest to students

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Incorporation of Thematic Instruction



- Thematic Instruction. *Funderstanding: Inspiring People who Care about Learning*. April 14, 2011. Retrieved from <http://www.techtrekers.com/Thematic.htm>
- Using the internet to create thematic units. *Techtreckers*, 2012. Retrieved from <http://www.techtrekers.com/Thematic.htm>

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Incorporation of Thematic Instruction



- Doda, N. & Springer, M. Powerful thematic teaching. *MiddleWeb*. Published 10/26/2013.
- Eaton, D. Marcus, C. & Burbacher, T. Intergrated Environmental Health Middle School Project. Retrieved from <http://tpchd.testcrafting.com/files/library/858173779731a40d.pdf>

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Incorporation of Thematic Instruction



- University of Washington Center for Ecogenetics & Environmental Health; Box 354695; Seattle, WA; (ceeh@uw.edu) [<http://depts.washington.edu/ceeh/educators/k12-resources.html>]
- Brooks, Sandra R. & Freiburger, Susan M. & Grotheer, Debra R. (1998). *Improving Elementary Student Engagement in the Learning Process through Integrated Thematic Instruction*. [Washington D.C.] : Distributed by ERIC

Examples of Thematic Learning Modules

Integrated Resources in STEM



Integrated Resources and Lessons in Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering

University of Washington and
University of New Mexico



How to Teachers Manual: K-12 Teachers

Heart

Environ-
mental
Health

Asthma

Diabetes

Georgia Gwinnett College: Introductory Biology Courses



Human
Immunode
ficiency
Virus
(HIV)

Sustain-
able
Agriculture

Biodiver-
sity

Nutrition

Standards for curriculum and instruction

Actively engaged students

Generating new knowledge in content and language

Rubrics for Thematic Instruction

Aid in the evaluation of the instructional design and pedagogy

A 3D rendered scene featuring a white, blocky world map in the background. At the top, the letters 'WWW' are displayed in a large, white, 3D font. The text is centered over the map.

21st Century educators are facing a sea-change in roles and expectations of the increasing global society.

ICT has been a significant contributor to such changes.

Conclusion

Significant advantages to incorporation of thematic learning modules for both content based instruction and ICT

- Support language learning and acquisition of knowledge across the curriculum
- Sequence of learning activities supports student achievement of objectives
- Positive learning will confront macro level ideas
- Lead to additional learning in a variety of modalities

Connections

A significant advantage



As connections are made between these modules and curriculum development designed to focus on crucial pedagogical strategies, knowledge will be gained to meet the competing demands on education within our increasingly complex global society.



THANK YOU

