

Assignments for OMDE 601

Assignment 1: Definition of Distance Education (5% of course grade)

A brief (2 pages/500 words) essay that identifies and quotes a definition of distance education from the literature that most closely matches that of the student author and provides an explanation of why the definition was chosen.

Assignment 2: Institutional Models of Distance Education (20% of course grade)

An essay (5-6 pages, 1250-1500 words) as follows: Choose two institutions or training providers from two different countries – one from a developed country and one from a developing country. Compare and contrast the institutions on the following dimensions: mission and population served, history/reason for existence, values espoused/inherent to the institution, organization/systems of operation, model of teaching and learning, and technologies used. Make sure to address how practice is influenced by context for each of the organizations.

Assignment 3: Pedagogical Theories in Relation to the Evolution of Distance Education (20% of course grade)

An essay (5-6 pages, 1250-1500 words) as follows: Discuss how earlier distance education theories such as transactional distance, andragogy, and/or industrialization have influenced current DE practice. Alternatively, find and use at least 3 scholarly journal articles about connectivism, social presence, community of inquiry, or heutagogy. Explain the theory and its application within DE.