

Italianality or the finer art of intentioned education

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Approaching educational design in Moodle is akin to the concept of 'Italianity'. Simply, the careful blend of fine art, culture, and a certain sprezzatura (the non-chalant concept of taking a complex theme and presenting it in a simple way). In other words: how can we approach educational design in a way that makes difficult concepts simple for our students?

Design should be simple but skilfully implemented to create a well-intentioned educational experience for students. The core concepts of a subject should be presented in a way that informs multiple learning styles. A purely text based or visually based interface fails to take account of this concept meaningfully. The multiple learning preferences of students dictates that we should seek to ensure our students have multiple points of accessibility in their Learning Management Systems (LMS).

We should ideally aim to enhance the learning experience through enhanced digital environments. This has become increasingly important in the high-octane, high-dopamine smartphone era. What once passed as educational design (namely text and some audiovisual experience) has evolved. As educators we must seek to provide a higher sense of educational design through all the tools at our disposal. Tools that will continue to evolve throughout this new epoch of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education.

Ensuring that barriers to entry in our digital learning environments has become evermore important. The COVID pandemic shifted the paradigm of learning environments firmly into the digital learning space. The trend of lectures moving to a pre-recorded asynchronous nature has only increased in recent years with even tutorial evolving to reflect the seminar model. Our role as educators is more important than ever. Our approach to create learning environments that provide "prompts" and "landmarks" to knowledge and opportunities seeks to be more important in the coming years. Until then: we must seek 'Italianity' or the finer art of intentioned education.

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