

LEARNING UNIT 5: INTEGRATED AND INNOVATIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING PRACTICES

5.1 OVERVIEW

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In learning unit 2, we explored various concepts relating to a professional teacher and discussed attributes and challenges teachers may face. We also looked at philosophies of teaching and learning in learning unit 3. Furthermore, teaching and learning strategies in order to help you meet the requirements associated with different curricula were discussed in learning unit 4. In this unit we want you to think about ways of integrating technology to promote innovative teaching and learning practices. Technology provides a variety of tools to enhance teaching and learning. It is now up to the commitment and the open-mindedness of the teacher to explore the various technological opportunities available. Technology offers a variety of tools to improve the quality of teaching and learning in your classroom. Research informs us that technology changes teaching and not teachers. Thus, teachers must always be available to facilitate learning. Technology has great power to influence their teaching, make teaching fun and bring even the shy and quiet learners to life. It has the ability to improve the scope and quality of what teachers and learners can now access to support learning (Granberg, 2000).

We are all aware that UNISA students for example, are dispersed all over the country, and even the world over. It is difficult to meet students scattered all over at a common venue. However, one of the ways to reach students and support their learning process is through the use of video-conferencing. We use this technology to bring students together at different centres around the country at a scheduled time to discuss aspects of the module they find difficult to understand. Using this technology may improve the quality of class discussions and help students to participate fully in their learning process.

Furthermore, children of today grow up in a digital environment where a variety of technologies are used in their homes. They grow up in a home environment surrounded by technological gadgets such as a television, home theatre, and play stations for TV games, controlling a remote to switch on/off a TV, a microwave, a toaster and many more. For example, it is no longer uncommon for a 1-year child to learn to hold a cell phone and emulate their mother or brother talking on a phone, or to try to change pictures in magazine in the same way they would on a tablet. So, the current teacher training needs to prepare prospective teachers to be ready to receive learners who have basic experience of the use of any form of technology. For example, a 3-year old boy won a DJ'ing competition in Gauteng to prove

that South Africa has talent. This child demonstrated to the large community of disk jockeys (DJs) how to spin and play good music which is appreciated by many people. He convinced the judges and beat a number of experienced DJs.

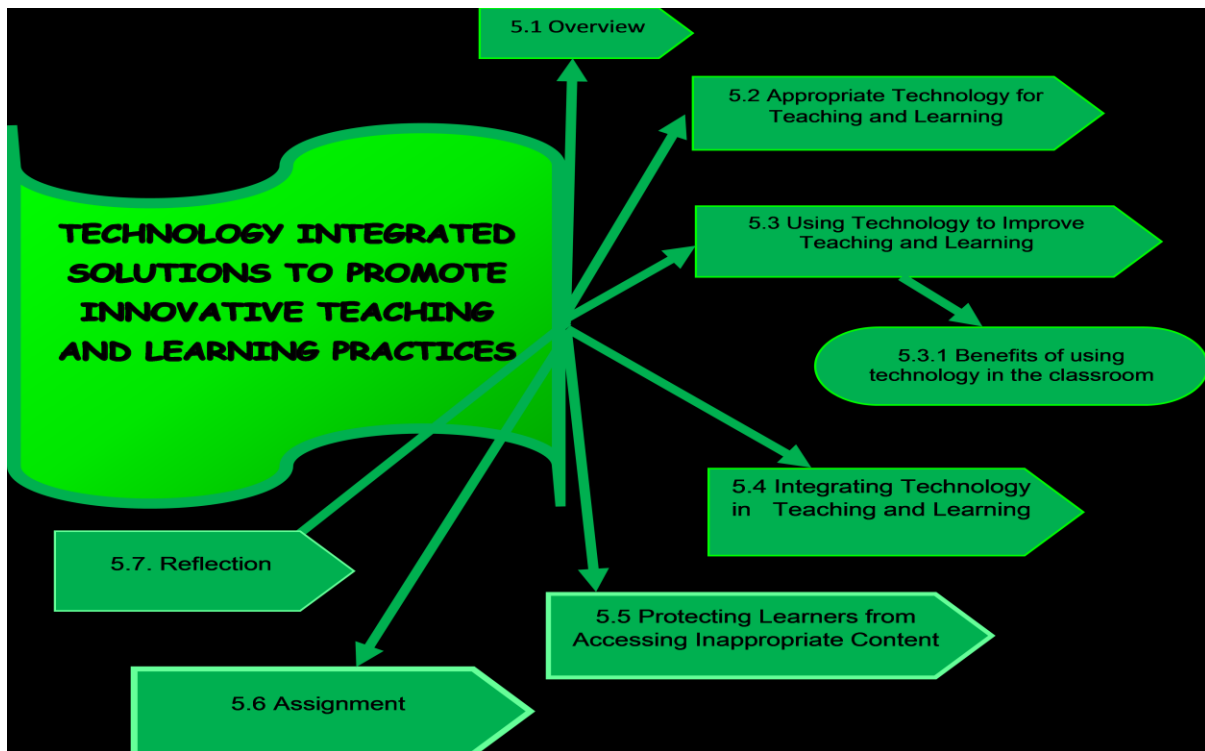
The pictures below are an indication of the type of learners you will meet by the time you qualify as a professional teacher. Be ready!

<http://www.google.co.za/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&ad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwil2qfeyvrUAhXLORQKHWZWARsQjRwlBw&url=http://www.youredm.com/2015/11/09/a-3-year-old-just-won-sas-got-talent/&psig=AFQjCNFgYaj9d-96XAT8O2qaFNIWqUGYPg&ust=1499634078020428>

A 3-Year-Old Just Won SA's Got Talent



THE STRUCTURE OF LEARNING UNIT 5



5.2 APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

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The growing use of technology in the classroom is gradually transforming the dynamics of the teaching and learning process (Shah, 2013). Although some teachers may feel technology is making their work irrelevant (Shah, 2013), I instead believe it makes teaching interesting, fun and a classroom a nice place to be. As technology is growing faster and stronger, it provides information quicker and easier to access, manipulate and re-share than ever before. Information and knowledge is made instantly available, communication and exchange of ideas are easily accessible. It is my view that teachers as change agents, have a responsibility of enriching the educational experiences of learners by introducing a variety of technologies across the curriculum and in their teaching and learning.

<http://education.microsoft.com/GetTrained/twt-course1usingICT>

Using a variety of technologies in the classroom can actually change the way in which learners and teachers engage with information and co-create new knowledge. I am of the view that it would make teaching better and offload the burden of finding information for learners. Instead, learners have the opportunity to research and find up-to-date information themselves. Hussaine and Safdar (2008) writes that technology therefore changes the dynamics of teaching and learning, for the better.

However, using technology in schools, requires a reliable system for effective use in the classroom in particular. Teaching and learning becomes productive, effective, interactive, learner-centres if the following resources are made available to all learners. This includes:

- Internet
- World Wide Web (www)
- computers
- Tele/Video conferencing
- Television (TV)
- Electronic mails (e-mails)
- Compact Discs (CDs)
- Flipped Classroom
- Whiteboards
- Other devices: Tablets, Any other Mobile devices.

Using devices appropriately in the classroom can play a constructive role and bring excitement and meaning into the teaching and learning process. See pictures below:

<http://www.google.co.za/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjK0f7N0frUAhVHwxQKHajVakUQjRwIBw&url=https://www.getadministrate.com/blog/how-to-teach-to-different-learning-styles/&psig=AFQjCNE1VZlkZ4fhgFzZnDU-z73KsydNw&ust=1499635659316547>

How to Teach to Different Learning Styles: Auditory Learners for example

ACTIVITY 5.1

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PLEASE NOTE:

1. THIS ACTIVITY IS CONDUCTED IN THREE STAGES. FOLLOW THE STAGES INDICATED BELOW TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE TOPIC UNDER DISCUSSION.

2. KINDLY POST YOUR RESPONSES FOR THIS ACTIVITY IN YOUR BLOG. POSTING YOUR RESPONSES IN YOUR BLOG WILL GIVE YOU 5% OF YOUR OVERALL ASSIGNMENT MARK

3. AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS IN YOUR GROUP SHOULD COMMENT ON YOUR POSTING.

STAGE 1: Pre-Reading

1. Spend at least five minutes brainstorming what you think about the innovative ways of teaching you plan to bring in your classrooms. On the basis of your brainstorm, formulate some question that you hope your pre-reading will help to answer.

STAGE 2: Reading:

Do an internet search for 2 (two) articles about “Relevant Technologies for teaching and Learning”. Review the articles and highlight some important points, while reading. And then,

- Write down some notes and comments you will need to use for your participation in your **BLOG** later.
- Pay particular attention to ideas that provide answers to the questions you raised previously, or ideas that raised issues you had not thought about.

Do an internet search and look for a short article that can provide you with information about devices that you think you can use in your classroom in order to reach all your learners and make your teaching and learning interesting.

How Technology can transform my teaching: <http://learningandsharingwithmsl.blogspot.com/2013/06/how-is-technology-transforming-my.html>

Born to learn: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=falHoOEUFz0>

New ways of teaching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=075aWDdZUIM>

STAGE 3: Post Video watching and Reading

Organize what you have learned from the readings in the form of a mind map or table and write one (1) or two (2) statements or ideas about the readings. Keep your notes to help form the basis of your comments in your **BLOG**. Remember to provide complete references for any direct quotations.

5.3 USING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

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Technology is gradually reforming teaching and learning in South African schools. Although, this is still at an infant stage, the need is clear for a better way of engaging with information and creating new knowledge. To some this should be seen as being innovative and also as the best way to learn. Using technology in the classroom is exciting, increases learning, engages learners with the learning material and it improves interaction between learners and the teacher with learners as well. Of significance, it unleashes the creativity of an innovative teacher.

<https://www.google.co.za/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiArN2Rhp3UAhUK8RQKHe0LCuMQjRwIBw&url=https://www>

Crawford Schools – Crawford Schools

School Activities

5.3.1 THE BENEFITS OF USING TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

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Using technology in the classroom offers many opportunities to learners. Although many schools have restrictions on bringing cell phones to school, using smartphones and laptops/computers allows learners to interact with the software used by the institution, receive first-hand information as well as engage with other learners and the teacher. Some teachers believe technology is destructive and using it will interfere with their teaching whereas, it is more helpful than having to do most of the work of finding relevant information yourself. Faster learners can be guided towards accessing more advanced resources while slower learners can be guided towards accessing more basic and well-scaffolded resources. So, technology can allow us to meet the needs of all learners in the classroom rather than only the middle 'average' learners.

The activity below will help you understand the value of using technology in the classroom. You will be required to watch short videos and read short articles. The activity is conducted in three stages:

ACTIVITY 5.2

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3. AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS IN YOUR GROUP SHOULD COMMENT ON YOUR POSTING.

STAGE 1: PRE-WATCHING

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- Spend at least five minutes brainstorming what you think of using technology in the classroom
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- On the basis of your brainstorm, formulate some questions that you hope your videos and readings will help to answer.

STAGE 2: WATCHING

-
- Select any of the links given below, click and read at least **TWO** of the articles or watch the video. As you are reading or watching the video write down some notes you will need to use later

How it started: <http://www.wired.com/2013/10/free-thinkers/all/>

Using Technology

Today: http://education.mit.edu/papers/GamesSimsSocNets_EdArcade.pdf

Technology in the classroom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulb4jl3xqs8>

Using Cellphones to assist Teaching and

Learning: <http://www.e4africa.co.za/?tag=cell-phones>

Using iPads for

projects: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnWAhFcDPrY&feature=related>

Technology in the

Classroom: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cxyH1qgKZQ&feature=related>

iPads in the

Classroom: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbcoDIONJaE&feature=related>

Self-directed learning: <http://edtechreview.in/news/824-how-technology-supports-self-directed-learning>

STAGE 3: Post-Video watching and Reading

Organize what you have learned from the readings in the form of a mind map or table and write one (1) or two (2) statements or ideas about the readings. Keep your notes to help form the basis of your comments in your **BLOG**. Remember to provide complete references for any direct quotations.

5.4 INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

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As have been indicated in previous paragraphs, technology is gradually becoming part of the lives of many people. Children of today grow up in a digital world as many homes are connected with internet and computers. Secondly, even though technology is being improved as a faster rate, the prices are dropping, and digital devices are

becoming affordable. The affordability of technology devices will make it possible for governments to provide every school with computers and learners with tablets.

http://www.google.co.za/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwift_CPg_3UAhVFSBQKHZIsCx8QjRwIBw&url=http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/04/20/teaching-technology-autism_n_6865030.html&psig=AFQjCNEAjl8rko4mrc9PrSaMZd5RCkPuQ&ust=1499716899445266

[The Technology That's Giving Students With Autism a Greater Voice ...](#)

From the above discussion, it is clear that learners of today are different. They come to school with some knowledge of using technology and moving their fingers. It means the 21st century school curriculum should be in line with the thinking and the needs of the child of today. Integrating technology in the curriculum is no longer negotiable, as it is a must that technology should be used in the classroom. This is in line with research as it reveals that integrating technology in the curriculum improves the learning process and the outcomes as well.

http://www.google.co.za/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiCqxq-D_zUAhUGVRQKHSqPDL0QjRwIBw&url=https://www.vmware.com/radius/impact/from-the-classroom-to-the-cloud/&psig=AFQjCNEAjl8rko4mrc9PrSaMZd5RCkPuQ&ust=1499716899445266

[From the Classroom to the Cloud](#)

Integrating technology in the curriculum does not only impact on teaching and learning, it also changes the way in which teachers teach. Teachers become facilitators of learning as they provide guidance and are able to identify the style of learning of each of the learners in class. Their teaching approach moves from behaviourism to constructivism as they (learners) learn to analyse, critique and construct new knowledge, they become critical users of information. Technology offers learners the opportunity to find information on their own and take charge of their learning as well. It leads them to become independent learners.

The activity below will help you learn more and understand the importance of integrating technology in the curriculum. You will be required to watch short videos and read short articles. The activity is conducted in three stages:

ACTIVITY 5.3

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3. AT LEAST FOUR MEMBERS IN YOUR GROUP SHOULD COMMENT ON YOUR POSTING.

STAGE 1: PRE-WATCHING

-
- Spend at least five minutes brainstorming what you think of using technology in the classroom
-
- On the basis of your brainstorm, formulate some questions that you hope your videos and readings will help to answer.

STAGE 2: WATCHING

-
- Select any of the links given below, click and read at least **TWO** of the articles or watch the video. As you are reading or watching the video write down some notes you will need to use later

Integrating Technology into learning:

The future classroom: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZ73ZsBkcus>

Using Technology to Learn: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/classroom-innovation/educational-games-pioneer-minds>

Using Cellphones to assist Teaching and Learning: <http://www.e4africa.co.za/?tag=cell-phones>

Using iPads for projects: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnWAhFcDPrY&feature=related>

Technology in the Classroom: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cxyH1qgKZQ&feature=related>

iPads in the Classroom: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbcoDIONJaE&feature=related>

STAGE 3: Post-Video watching and Reading

Organize what you have learned from the readings in the form of a mind map or table and write one (1) or two (2) statements or ideas about the readings. Keep your notes

to help form the basis of your comments in your **BLOG**. Remember to provide complete references for any direct quotations.

While we all sing praises on the use of technology in the classroom, we also need to protect and monitor our learners on the information they access on the internet.

5.5 PROTECTING LEARNERS FROM ACCESSING INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

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As has been discussed in learning unit 2 that teachers play multiple roles in the classroom, you need to be aware and understand that most learners come to school familiar with a variety of technological gadgets, especially iPad's, Tablets and/or mobile technologies. These gadgets are used as tools to facilitate learning, sharing and exchanging knowledge **BUT** they can be dangerous if they are not properly used. It is in this vain that you (the teacher) are expected to ensure that learners do not put themselves at risk or are compromised while using these gadgets. For example, we now understand that technology makes the life of a teacher easy, especially in areas where there is shortage of learning material and accessing information. Accessing a variety of information requires skills that learners acquired over time. They should therefore be checked, whether they are not sharing inappropriate information they would normally not distribute to the rest of the class or to their teacher to say the least.

It is in this vein, that I believe the school and teachers have a responsibility to help protect learners from accessing inappropriate content material such as pornography as well as guarding against issues such a cyber-bullying. Cyberbullying is a growing trend in South Africa and it needs to be tackled even before it begins in our schools. The effects of cyberbullying are dangerous and may cause all forms of psychological, emotional and physical stress to learners. All these issues require collaborative strategies where the school, teachers and parents to work together and plan ways to protect learners from accessing harmful material which are inappropriate for their age and stage of development (Muthler, 2015) as well.

ACTIVITY 5.4

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Select any of the links given below, click and read at least **TWO** of the articles. As you are reading write down some notes you will need to use later.

Keep your notes to help form the basis of your comments in your **BLOG**. Remember to provide complete references for any direct quotations.

Keeping Learners Safe: <http://www.edudemic.com/guides/the-teachers-guide-to-keeping-students-safe-online/>

How to keep children Safe: <https://www.laptopmag.com/articles/technology-and-your-children-how-to-keep-them-safe>

How to protect children from cyberbullying: <http://theconversation.com/how-can-we-protect-young-people-from-cyberbullying-14753>

Cyberbullying: Protection of learners against cyberbullying: <http://www.edudemic.com/the-teachers-guide-to-keeping-students-safe-online/>

Strategies Educators can use to stop cyberbullying: <http://www.opencolleges.edu.au/informed/features/15-strategies-educators-can-use-to-stop-cyberbullying/>

Types of Cyberbullying: <http://www.endcyberbullying.org/5-different-types-of-cyberbullying/>

5.6 ASSIGNMENT 6: CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

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There is a multiplicity of technology tools that can be used to enhance teaching and learning. You want to teach your diverse learners to sing and enjoy school. But the song must be meaningful and thought-provoking to your learners. You therefore need to do the following:

- Compose a poem/song appropriate for the learners you plan to teach (Any Grade)
- The poem/song can be written in any language but translated in English
- Your song must have an appropriate message for learners to enjoy it
- Record the poem/song and publish it on U-Tube
- Create a link where to find it and listen to the poem/song
- The poem/song should be 5 minutes long.

5.7 REFLECTION ON LEARNING UNIT 5

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The purpose of this section is to help us understand how well the online delivery of this learning unit enabled you to learn.

There are no "right" or "wrong" answers; we are interested only in your opinion. Please be assured that your contribution will make a difference.

- Write 5 statements about your experience in this learning unit and keep this information for later use in the year.
- Suggest ways in which we can improve the module.

5.8 REFERENCES

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Granberg, E.M. 2000. How Technology Enhances Teaching and Learning. *Vanderbilt Center for Teaching*

Hussain, I and Safdar, M. (2008). Role of Information Technologies in Teaching Learning Process: Perception of the Faculty. *Turkish Online Journal of Distance Education*, (9), 2, 46 – 56

Motteram, G. 2013. Innovations in learning technologies for English language teaching. Retrieved on 30 May 2017, from www.britishcouncil.org

Muthler, S. 2015. Online Safety: A Teacher's Guide to Dealing with Cyberbullying, Sexting, and Student Privacy. *Edudemic*

Shah, S.A. (2013). Making the Teacher Relevant and Effective in a Technology-Led Teaching and Learning