

Online Collaborative Learning Theory

- **C-L skill growth -- an explicit goal!**
- **Little static content in any discipline!**
- **C-L accommodates diverse learning styles**
- **Pedagogical benefits**
 - **critical thinking skills;**
 - **Co-creation of knowledge and meaning;**
 - **Reflection, and**
Transformative learning



Learning communities...benefits!

OCL Theory

- Grounded in ‘active learning’ and focused on ‘transmission of knowledge and skills’ using learners’ ‘interest-driven activities that are generative of knowledge and competence.’
- Discourse, collaboration, and knowledge building

Process

- Idea generating
- Idea organizing
- Intellectual competence

Attributes

- Place-independent discourse
- Time-independent discourse
- Many-to-many discourse
- Text-based discourse
- Internet-mediated discourse

- Online learning is a social collaboration
- My method is to introduce an assignment as a team activity to establish baseline knowledge
- Individual assignment drills into content and demonstrates variance in learning outcomes

The 20Q Method!

Assignment: Teams are formed, review abbreviated case study, develop 20 questions.

- **Public round robin.** (synchronous with team leaders). Take turns asking questions...all hear answers
- **Breakout.** Assess answers and formulate three new questions within teams (discussion forum, wiki, group chat)
- **Private meetings.** synchronous with teams
- **Public forum assignment** to discuss importance of 'asking the right questions'
- **Individual assignment.** Resolve case study and submit a written summary (case) and individual reflections (process)

Ground: Three hour night class

Online: Two week time span, later in course after establishing functional team dynamics