Teaching Online with the Harry Potter Books (or Harry Potter and the Common Core of Doom) 2 credits

Course Goals: In Summer 2013, UNH sponsored an online Harry Potter-themed course for students grade 4-8. (I will refer to this course as the HPOC, for "Harry Potter Online Course.") The HPOC content was structured around Common Core English language arts standards, and was designed to engage students with academic material through their interest in the Harry Potter book series. There were about 70 students, ranging in a fairly even distribution from grades 4-8, and post-course surveys were overwhelmingly positive. The same course is running currently in Summer 2014.

The course you are now enrolled in will use the HPOC as practical test case for thinking about two areas of pedagogy:
1. Strategies for, problems with and issues raised by online teaching and learning.
2. Using popular YA fiction, such as Harry Potter, as a launch pad for language arts teaching, with particular attention to the Common Core Standards

You will have access to the HPOC as if you were one of the summer middle-school students. Specific lessons from the HPOC will be assigned for this class to discuss on specific days. You are also free to watch the lectures, take the quizzes, and engage in all the normal student activities to whatever degree you like. Because the HPOC has a "sandbox" structure, in which all lessons can be taken in any order at any time, you have a great deal of freedom, just as the middle-school students who originally took the course did.

On a typical class day, you will watch a video lecture by the professor (usually about 15 minutes short), read a critical article on that day's topic, and review the designated section of the HPOC. Students will post to the discussion board every day, and there will be an assignment due roughly every other day.

The HPOC was designed as a summer enrichment program, rather than an actual school-year course, and there are important differences. But I believe that reviewing the way the HPOC works can help us learn things and, more importantly, raise issues about online learning worth thinking about and discussing.

Assignments:
Daily Discussion Posts 25%
Every day, the professor will pose a question based on that day's readings. Please post at least once and respond to another student's post at least once. Posts should be at least 70 words; responses should be at least 30.
Online Learning Literature Reviews 20%
YA Fiction Literature Review 20%
Rather than an exhaustive review of recent scholarship, I want you to identify the 5 articles that you find most interesting in the context of this class.*

- Give complete bibliographic information for each article.
- Summarize each article in about 50 words (don't just copy the abstract).
- Write a 300-500 word discussion of the articles, focusing on what practical help you think they will be in your own teaching.
  *If you are not already comfortable doing online research, watch the ONLINE RESEARCH video lecture. If that doesn't help, get in touch with me.

Grammar, Style Assignment 10%

Online Lesson Plan 25%
For the last few days of the class, we will be focusing on the process of conceiving and creating a brief online lesson.

Class Schedule
Day 1  **The Digital Brain-- Teaching Smartphone Addicted Students**
**Video Lecture:** Introduction-- Moving Laterally through Cyberspace
**Critical Reading:** Podoll, Sue, and Darcy Randle. "Building A Virtual High School...Click By Click." *T.H.E. Journal* 33.2 (2005): 14-19.
**HPOC Lessons:**

- Grim Reapers: Biology of The Black Death, Neurology of Depression, and the Dementors of Azkaban
- Bad Blood: Democracy, Racism and Blood Purity

Day 2  **Etymology as Gateway to Interdisciplinary Thinking**
**Video Lecture:** The Technological Democratization of Cryptic Knowledge
**Critical Reading:** Nilsen, Alleen Pace ; Nilsen, Don L. F "Latin Revived: Source-Based Vocabulary Lessons Courtesy of Harry Potter." *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, v50 n2 p128-134 Oct 2006. 17 pp.
**HPOC Lessons:**
• Flirting: Fleur Delacour's Simple and Complex Character Traits
• Friendship: Understanding Luna Lovegood's Hidden Character Motivations
• Spells: Professor Flitwick's Spellbook,
• Rivalries: Protagonists, Antagonists and the Rivalry between Draco and Harry Draco Malfoy

Day 3  Visual Literacy and Online Assessment
Video Lecture: Using Online Cheating to your Advantage
HPOC Lessons:

• Centaurs: Conflict-Based Themes
• Bullies: Bullying and Cyberbullying at Hogwarts and Your School  (focus in particular on the quizzes for these sections)

Day 4  Fan Fiction and Classroom Community
Critical Reading: Cherland, Meredith. "Harry's Girls: Harry Potter and the Discourse of Gender”
HPOC Lessons:

• The Common Room

Assignment Due: Literature Review Online Teaching

Day 5  Grammar, Rules and Writing
Video Lecture: Grammar for writers
HPOC Lessons:

• Prepositions: Why it matters where you sit on the Hogwarts Express.
• Pronouns: Why Dobby talks that weird way.
• Semicolons: Why Buckbeak flies so fast.
Day 6  Visual Literacy and Literary Symbolism
HPOC Lessons:

- Symbols: What the invisibility cloak means
- Archetypal Characters: Why Madeye Moody has a wooden leg

Assignment Due: Grammar/Style Exercise

Day 7  Interweaving History with Language Arts
Video Lecture: Information and Interconnection
HPOC Lessons:

- Bad Blood: Democracy, Racism and Blood Purity
- Buried Alive: Germs, Hygiene and The Chamber of Secrets

Day 8  Interweaving Science with Language Arts
HPOC Lessons:

- Lost in the Woods: Vernal Pool Ecology, Albinism, and the Forbidden Forest
- Candyland: Sugar, Shopping and the Shelves at Honeydukes
- Rabbit Holes: Home, Family and Genetics at The Burrow

Assignment Due: Literature Review YA Literature

Day 9  Creating Online Lectures
Video Lecture: Using Tegrity to Create Accessible Online Lessons
HPOC Lessons:

- Bullies: Bullying and Cyberbullying at Hogwarts and Your School

Online Workshop

Day 10  Creating Online Assessments
HPOC Lessons:
• Sphinxes: Character-Based Themes
• Living Corpses: Science, Medicine and Voldemort's desire to conquer death

Assignment Due: Online Lesson Plan Due