

Gábor Dénes Főiskola Elektronikus TávOktatási Rendszer



## Differentiated didactic strategies in e-learning environment

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## Introduction

- In line with rapid technological development there is a need to improve didactic aspects
  - reforming teaching and learning models
  - methodological innovations
- New technology
  - -> new kind of learning environment and opportunities
  - > new didactic challenges, new roles, tasks and competencies
- Current themes: **cooperation**, **motivation** and e-learning
- Differentiation: made a breakthrough in traditional education
   → still needs to be elaborated in e-learning

## **Experiences**

- In the everyday practice of teaching-studying.
- More favourable services and technological solutions in several fields:
  - preparing and publishing learning materials
  - communication
  - Managing learning groups and courses
    - supporting learning process, measuring and evaluating learning results
- The basis of quality and efficiency are:
  - User training, methodological trainings
  - Application of ILIAS services are didactically prepared and supported

## Differentiation

- Considering individual differences in teaching and learning processes
  - different ways to **motivate** students
  - different learning sources, tools, levels
  - different **processes** and ways to **organize** learning activities
  - different ways to measure/test and evaluate.
- Origin of individual differences:
  - biological (age, sex), psychological
  - **sociocultural** (ex. family background, attitude, values)
  - preliminary knowledge, competences, attitude towards learning
    - field of interest, learning styles, scholastic / professional motivation

## **Context of differentiation**

- Approach
  - Constructivist, learner-centered, supporting
- Learning and teaching models
  - Open, distance-, constructivist, flexible, resource-based

#### • Learning environment:

- supporting attitude of teachers
   appropriate methodology
- individual and collaborative learning
- can be supported in small learning groups and also with great number of students.
- Learners can be *active, interactive, cooperative,* can *raise* and *solve problems.*

# E-learning (2.0) environment

- Does it insure the differentiation by itself?
- YES, because
  - students are allowed
  - to choose the schedule/timing of their learning activities,
    - the use of proposed sources, curricula,
    - the route and way to make progress with the learning contents;
  - to prepare individual contents and to share them.
- NO, because it only provides **possibilities**.
  - students with different background must be trained
    - to apply the e-services,
    - to apply and utilize the given **possibilities**,
    - to use the **new** ways of **communication**,
    - to learn in the new environment /digital literacy/

## **E-learning environment**

- Students training (continuous)
- E-tutors prepare consciously for their new roles.
- Learning guidance (and support)
  - Curricula guide and flow chart
  - during the learning process: continuous testing, monitoring and evaluation of knowledge -> suggestions for further improvement (software, tutorial)
- Activating in diversified manners individuals, groups
- Complex learning strategies
  - team-work, case study, project
  - Their framework, ways and processes are to be elaborated.

### **Teachers in new roles:**

supporting learning process, facilitating collaboration

#### **Examples:**

- Moderating forums
  - Clearity, motivation

#### • ICT-based synchronic learning (eg. skype, videoconf.)

- preparation
- coordination
  - schedule
  - "Where from where to" perspective
- Supporting team- and project work

## **Motivation**

- The development of the inclination to learn and the persistence in learning process are based on various
- **internal** driving forces (come from within the person goals, values)
- external driving mechanisms (motivated from outside sources).
  - The internal motivation is more effective

->goal: constructing basis of internal motivation.

- Different students: different aims & motivations to learn
  - interest/curiosity, efficiency, variety
- Need to motivate each student in a different way
  - Fulfilling their needs
    - with providing appropriate activities, tasks...
  - + developing new needs

3 types of motivational need (McClelland)	Appropriately supported team-work Activating motivational factors
<b>need for achievement</b> (advancement, attainment of realistic but challenging goals)	Through accomplishment of fitting subtasks students can attain results and contribute to the common work
<b>need for affiliation</b> (member of a group, familiar friendship, interaction with others )	Students are in <b>interaction</b> , work <b>together</b> for <b>common</b> goals
Need for authority and power (being influential, increasing personal status and prestige)	by organising & coordinating common work, by debating and coming up with controversial questions students can experience the influence with its confines and ways in real situations

# Learning styles

- Learning style = totality of cognitive features that are determinative factors during the learning process.
  - various learning methods and different attitudes
  - "They involve educating methods, particular to an individual, that are presumed to allow that individual to learn best."

#### • Should be considered – by students and teachers too

– Activity according only to the dominant learning style:

less useful and sufficient than complex development

- Diverse learning-style models, measuring method, typology
  - VAK model
  - Honey & Mumford's model
  - Kolb's styles model (learning-style inventory)

# Visual-Auditive-Kinaesthetic model

Learning-style type	Preferred activities
	(allowing the best learning)
Visual	figures, tables, simulations, media substances
Auditive	sounding substances, ICT-based communication
Kinaesthetic	practical tasks, content production and sharing, activating in the interactive environment of the framework system

## Honey & Mumford's model

Learning-style type	Preferred activities
<b>Activist</b> (do) likes doing, accomplishing things	interactivity, tasks, practices
<b>Pragmatist</b> (plan) interested in results	applications, processes ending in products, problems to be solved
<b>Theorist</b> (conclude) likes what takes him/her closer to the contexts	conceptual constructions, structural figures, flowcharts, discussion groups
<b>Reflector</b> (review) concludes after observing	overviewing details, practical activity at the beginning of learning; self-esteem tests, case study, observation at situational games

# Kolb's experimential learning theory

Stage of cycle of learning	Preferred activities
Concrete experience	readings, examples, observation, simulation, practice, project
<b>Reflective observation</b>	interactions, press discourses, conversations, thought-provoking questions, debates -> ICT, forum
Abstract conceptualization	<b>lecture, study writing, searching</b> <b>for</b> analogies, <b>contexts,</b> observing and <b>analysing models</b>
Active experimentation	<b>applications,</b> <b>participation-based learning</b> forms (practice, team-work)

## Kolb's learning-style inventory

Learning-style type	Preferred cycle styles
Diverger	Concrete experience (feeling)
feel + watch	+ reflective observation (watching)
Assimilator	<b>Reflective observation</b> (watching)
watch + think	+ abstract conceptualization (thinking)
Converger	Abstract conceptualization (thinking)
think + do	+ active experimentation (doing)
Accommodator	Active experimentation (doing)
do + feel	+ concrete experiences (feeling)

## **Problem: huge number of students**

How to organise individual-based, continuous support? (Technology, capacity)

#### Solutions:

- Capacity
  - --> rethinking the old attitude and scale of teachers' activities
- Acquiring new attitude and methods (theory, routine)
- Sharing and utilizing the **best practices** 
  - "Typical" problems and needs;

--> • practical examples • FAQ

- Appropriate learning contents and auxiliary materials
  - Different and non-linear ways of learning
  - Proposals for schedule (learning guidance, prerequisite proceeding)
  - Different sources, exercises, on-line tests etc.

# Knowledge codification and personalization

#### • Formal:

- educational institution
- required knowledge intended timeframe (e.g. semester, curricula)

#### Non-formal, personal

- non-formal activities (e.g. interaction, team-work)
- personalized learning (e.g. ways, methods, sources)

#### • Harmonising and synthesising them:

- to find position (+ coordinating and measuring possibilities) for the non-formal and differentiated learning activities within the educational system
- Pluralist learning environment
  - knowledge transfer and individual construction of knowledge

## **Exercises**

Possible ways to differentiate:

- Various theme and/or difficulty level
  - students could choose according to
    - their fields of interest
    - their alleged or actual level of knowledge
      - Test results --> recommendation -> decision
- Evaluation of students' work
  - Summative, formative
  - Motivation, guidance / instruction

## Tutor interface

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ndrás,	L	.GDF]	Utolsó megoldás: 20. Szept. 2008, 14:47 Beküldött fájlok: 1 Fájlok letöltése Jegyzet:	🧭 Elfogadva 💽 Jegy: 10pont
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## New services

- On-line consultation
  - ILIAS chat
  - Instant messengers
  - Videoconference
- Web 2.0 tools
  - Google MapsRSS
  - Tagging
     Personal notes
- del.icio.us
- Public comments

- Wiki
- Supporting team-work and project-work
  - Inner objects, calendar, e-mail list, chat...

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# Tagging

- Flexible
- Arranging coherent data -> searching
- Tag clouds (on Personal desktop)







## Private notes

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Hogyan használjuk az ILIAS-t? (Felhasználói kézikönyv) v3.9 > ILIAS felhasználó (on-line tananyag) Felhasználói kézikönyv > ILIAS felhasználói kézikönyv (v3.9) (on-line tananyag) How use ILIAS? (User manual) 3.9 > ILIAS felhasználói kézikönyv (v3.9) (on-lin	bi kézikönyv (v3.9) e tananyag)
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### Wiki web2.0 encyclopaedia

- Sharing collected information and experiences in a structured form.
- Integrating wiki into learning and teaching process:
  - methodological and vocational preparation
  - **clear framework** (requirements, tasks, evaluation)
- ILIAS wiki has pedagogic extra:
  - Useful functions help following and evaluating the progress of the students.
- Cooperative, creative, multi-faceted learning activity
- Excellent for accomplishing team- and project work

#### Wiki editor

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## **Evaluation**

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🔞 Nyilvános megjegyzések



## **Team-work**

Students can

- a) find activities according to their interests and skills;
- b) **improve themselves** in other fields as well (team support)
- c) contribute to the common work by accomplishing subtasks
- 4 basic principles of cooperative learning (Spencer Kagan)
  - simultaneous interaction
  - individual accountability (fulfilling sub-tasks)
  - positive interdependence (constructive)
  - equal participation

### Project (work)

#### complex learning experience with planning + executing

#### • Students' roles:

- defining the objects of the project
- planning the schedule and organising the work
- collecting and systemising data
- preparing, presenting and discussing the results
- evaluating the project (collaboration, results / products)

#### • Teachers' roles:

- **Preparing phase: competence development, confines, resources** (preparing individual and collaborative work)
- Executing phase: support, feedback, new aspects
- Closing phase: evaluation (groups, individuals)

#### **Project: complex development of competencies**

• Independent and critical thinking, problem solving, realistic cooperation, flexible adaptation to changing situations

## Group and course management

- Also to support team-work and project
- Related services: "mini ILIAS"

We can add to the group or course:

all kind of object

plug-ins

Work in a course could be - depending on tasks and students' competences:

- more or less directed,
- more or less coordinated,
- mainly self-directed and self-managed

Category
Category
Course
Group
Forum
File
Web Resource
Learning Module ILIAS
Learning Module HTML
Learning Module SCORM/AICC
Digilib Book
Glossary
Exercise
Test
Survey
Media Pool
Question Pool Test
Question Pool Survey

## **Examples**

- Course structures
- Course settings
  - Accessibility (ex. timing; joining criteria)
  - Competence-profiling
  - User entitlements (admin, editor, member)
- Inner communication
  - Forums, RSS, chat, wiki, MSN/skype support...
- Course management

# Conclusion

- For *differentiating* in e-learning there is a need for
  - rethinking and reforming teaching and learning models
  - reconstructing the learning environment complexly
  - applying new methods and tools.
- L(C)MS with broadening services could support the differentiated teaching and learning processes in various forms.

# Thank you for your attention!

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