EDTE 226 C & I Online (Week of July 5 to 11)

Essential Questions

- **By Wed., July 8th**, read UbD, pp 105-125 and pay particular attention to: (1) what is an essential question, (2) what makes an essential question different than a typical question, and (3) how can essential questions be used to drive instruction that points back to the big ideas.

- **By Thursday, July 9th**, log onto the “Essential Questions” Discussion board and reply to the discussion prompts.

- **By Saturday, July 11th**, visit other people’s postings about essential questions. You are not required to respond to their postings but should view them. In fact, part of your participation grade is based on whether or not you “visit” the discussion postings more than once (oh yes, SacCT has the capability to provide me with this information).
Essential Questions
(from Grant Wiggins)
What questions –

- are arguable - and important to argue about?
- are at the heart of the subject?
- recur - and should recur - in professional work, adult life, as well as in classroom inquiry?
- raise more questions – provoking and sustaining engaged inquiry?
- often raise important conceptual or philosophical issues?
- can provide purpose for learning?
Sample Essential Questions:
(from Grant Wiggins)

- Does a good read differ from a ‘great book’?
- Why are some books fads, and others classics?
- To what extent is geography destiny?
- How important is the past?
- Shouldn’t an axiom be obvious?
- Is a scientific theory (evolution, Big Bang) more than a plausible opinion?
Types of Essential Questions
(from Grant Wiggins)

- Provoking:
  - “Are icky bugs less worthy of protection than ‘nice’ animals?”
  - “Why leave home?”

- Guiding:
  - “How strong are insects?”
  - “Why did so many easterners head West?”
In your teams, come up with 4 of your own essential questions

What Essential Question is arguable - and *important* to argue about?

What Essential Question lies at the heart of the subject and helps provide purpose for learning?

What Essential Question raises more questions – provoking and sustaining engaged inquiry?

What Essential Question raises important conceptual or philosophical issues?
Although you do not need to submit the essential questions to me at this time, your team should have them complete because next week will be a full week of fleshing out the instructional blueprint and you will need to consider the essential questions as you do so.