

Assignment Two

Learning in Virtual Worlds

One of the most intriguing aspects in learning in a digital age, and one of the least understood so far, is the advent of Massive Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games (MMORPGs). These games often require mastery of an incredibly complex set of inter-related skills and concepts. Despite this, there are no formal educational avenues for learning to play these games. Typically the game manuals provide the barest information needed to get started. Many of these games are tremendously popular, with players spending hours and hours online.

Your task is to explore the informal learning that occurs in an online gaming context. You will do this by:

1. Purchasing **World of Warcraft** (WOW) and creating an account.
2. Creating a character.
3. Advancing that character up to level 20.
4. Keeping a reflective journal on your gameplay. This journal should focus on
 - a. Your overall impressions of the game experience
 - b. A general log of what you do in each online session
 - c. Your impressions of how you go about learning what you need to know to play
 - d. Your impressions of the online community
 - e. Your ideas on what lessons we can draw from learning in an MMORPG for education and training.
5. This will be due at our mid-term face to face meeting on March 18th.

TIPS:

1. In order for your character to associate with other classmates' characters they all need to be on the same server ("realm" in WOW speak). I suggest we all choose the "**Kirin Tor**" server (realm). Additionally I have a character there and will be able to help "in-world" if needed.
2. In order for your character to associate with other classmates' characters they all need to be on the same side. I suggest that you create a character in the **Alliance**. This side is also a bit easier to begin with than the opposing side (the **Horde**).
3. My character on Kirin Tor is called xxxxxx. Send xxxxx a message from within the game if you need help. (This will only be possible if you are Alliance on Kirin Tor)