Script introduction to Digital Destiny

Hi and welcome to this video of the digital destiny massive open online course! I will give you an overall view of who we are, what digital destiny is about and which materials you will find in this online training.

Are you a primary school teacher and do you want to bring societal issues into the classroom to make learning more meaningful for your students? Perfect! We want to help you!

What is Digital Destiny?

But first, what is Digital Destiny about? The project wants to help primary school teachers to bring societal issues into the classroom. Societal issues are all around us, such as climate change, a polluted school neighbourhood, so there is a big chance that your students are encountering them in their daily life.

With Digital Destiny, we want to assist you as a teacher with methods to get started on those societal issues. It combines different approaches such as education for sustainable development, design thinking, digital storytelling and more! All of which you will learn throughout this MOOC.

It brings democratic education to the forefront and is suitable for a blended learning approach for young learners. By using the Digital Destiny approach, you will work on students' competences related to sustainability, creativity, digital skills, and democratic citizenship.

Structure of Digital Destiny

This all might seem a lot to wrap your head around so to take this approach to your daily practice, Digital Destiny will provide you with clear guidelines and materials.

This platform is built upon some Digital Destiny core concepts and five main principles. Those five principles will help you stimulate learning through:

1. Societal issues
2. Dialogue and interaction
3. Thinking
4. Enacting meaningful learning through structured processes
5. Evaluation and reflection

Every principle is explained in a separate module consisting of an introductory paragraph, a short video where you learn more about the principle, some reflective exercises, a list of learning materials and additional information on the topic.

It does not matter where you start, the modules are not linear nor hierarchic. You can fully choose your route from beginning to end. Though, we recommend you to start with the module 'learning through societal issues' and end with 'enacting meaningful learning through structured processes'.

In this introduction video to Digital Destiny, we will explain the Digital Destiny core concepts a little further, being sustainable development, Education for Sustainable development and blended learning.

Sustainable development

Sustainable development is the root of the Digital Destiny approach. Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It offers a vision of development that includes all the factors in society, such as populations, animal and plant species, ecosystems, and natural resources, such as water, air and energy.

It integrates concerns such as the fight against poverty, gender equality, human rights, education for all, health, human security, intercultural dialogue, etc. To grasp all those things, the United Nations defined 17 Sustainable Development Goals to work on those and make the world a better place today and tomorrow. All societal issues mentioned in the SDG's provide opportunities for rich learning experiences. But how do you get started with societal issues in the classroom?

Education for sustainable development

Education for Sustainable Development, or ESD for short, provides an educational approach which encourages the development of the competence to act as resilient and conscious citizens by offering learners opportunities to practice with societal issues.

By ESD, you as a teacher aim to empower and equip current and future generations to meet their needs using a balanced and integrated approach to the economic, political, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

ESD facilitates teachers to engage students with societal issues without being reduced to instruments for externally determined demands or beliefs. In this approach, societal issues are seen as interesting drivers for creative and critical inquiry, for finding new ways to live in the world and thus for learning.

Blended learning

In the Digital Destiny Project, we also pay great attention to blended learning as we see that digital tools and technology are present in almost every aspect of our

lives, as well in education. In each module, we integrate blended learning in the learning materials to stimulate the use of technology and digital didactics in schools.

Blended learning is the thoughtful integration of classroom face-to-face learning experiences with digital learning experiences, for example using digital tools to let students collaborate online, learn how to work with the tools and so on.

I won't hold you up any longer so you can start exploring all the Digital Destiny principles and the lesson materials! Thanks for watching and see you in the next video!