



# THE CUTTING EDGE

Technology and Innovation in Language  
Learning, Teaching and Research



**HAYO REINDERS**



## Course Syllabus

In this course you will learn about the impact of educational changes on language education. We will deal with such topics as gamification, mobile learning, and digital storytelling, as well as more recent and (re-)emerging topics such as robotics, neuroscience, data mining, and artificial intelligence, which together represent the cutting edge in our field. Although a large part of the courses is related to technology, the broader underlying theme is innovation and in particular how it is defined; how it is encouraged/facilitated/created; how it is implemented; how it is evaluated; and how it is disseminated.

## Course aims

The aim of the course is to prepare you for the future of language education by giving you the tools to critically consume as well as produce innovation in language learning and teaching, with a focus on the role of technology. Through this course you will:

- gain a comprehensive overview of the forces that are shaping language education around the globe
- develop the ability to critically engage with new developments and ideas in the area of technology-enhanced (language) learning
- understand the nature of innovation and its diffusion
- carry out a critical evaluation of a recent technology used for learning or teaching languages
- communicate your findings to a stakeholder group.

## Schedule

The course is very hands-on. Bring a laptop **and** a mobile phone or tablet and be prepared to install new programs.

Saturday	Topic	Reading
14:00-15:30	Disruptive Technologies	Papert 1996
15:45-17:15	Innovation and change	Reinders 2017a & 2017b
17:15-18:15	Learning Analytics I	Reinders 2018
18:15-20:00	Learning Analytics II	



Saturday	Topic	Reading
10:00-11:30	Digital Game-Based Learning	Reindhardt, 2017
11:45-13:15	Mobile-Assisted Language Learning	Kukulska-Hulme 2018
13:15-14:15	Open & Distance education, MOOCs	Jitpaisarnwattana, Reinders &
14:15-15:45	Disseminating change	Darasawang, 2019
16:00-17:00	Elevator pitches	

## Assignment

This course uses a mini-project both to guide the delivery of its content as well as for you to work on as part of the assignment. The project involves the development and delivery of an 'elevator pitch' (we will discuss and practice this in class), during which you will present to your institution's board of studies (in reality, your instructor and your peers) an idea for innovating one aspect of the curriculum, using one of the technologies we discuss in class or that you are familiar with. This could relate to any pedagogical aspect of language education that you like, from the introduction of mobile phones in class, to experimenting with automated assessment, to moving part of the curriculum online – choose based on your own interests. The board of studies has limited resources to support new initiatives. They are critical and need strong arguments to be convinced of the merits of your project for you to have a chance of it being accepted. There is no set checklist of features that your proposal needs to meet; you will develop such a checklist yourself as you learn in this course about different ways in which innovations can be developed, implemented, and evaluated. The more you draw on all topics covered in the course, the more likely that your proposal will be successful. You will receive a pass/fail grade which is based on

- your self-assessment (20%)
- the group's peer assessment (30%)
- instructor's assessment (50%)

## Course reading

There is no set textbook. Instead you will be given reading materials and programs to use.

Optional background reading:

- Stockwell, G. & Reinders, H. (2019). Technology, motivation and autonomy in language learning: Exploring the myths and possibilities. *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics (ARAL)*, 39, (40-51)



## The Professor

Dr. Hayo Reinders ([www.innovationinteaching.org](http://www.innovationinteaching.org)) is TESOL Professor and Director of the doctoral programme at Anaheim University in the USA and Senior Research consultant at KUIS. Hayo is Editor of the journal *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching* (Taylor & Francis) and edits a book series on “New Language Learning and Teaching Environments” (Palgrave Macmillan). He has published 26 books and over 100 articles in the areas of technology, autonomy, and teacher education.