

# 21st Century Skills - Level I Course Syllabus

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Essential skills for tackling a fluid present and an unknowable future can't be developed by taking lecture notes and following other people's solutions.

Creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and problem solving—along with content and fueled by rapidly changing technology—are what our kids need to master now to navigate and design the future.

With this course, you'll build your own skills and learn to support your students' abilities and strategies for college and career readiness. You'll define what 21st century skills are, assess current practices, and create a plan to equip your students and yourself for success in a global society and workplace.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

I can...	<a href="#">ISTE Teacher Standards</a>
Use 21st century skills to facilitate and inspire student learning, creativity, and innovation	<b>Standards:</b> 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d
Design and develop 21st century learning experiences and assessments, incorporating digital tools and resources that promote student learning and creativity	<b>Standards:</b> 2a, 2c, 2d, 3d
Create learning experiences and activities that address the 21st Century Skills of problem solving and creative thinking, of connecting, communicating, and collaborating, and of analyzing data using research skills	<b>Standards:</b> 3a, 3b, 3d
Model and promote digital citizenship for my students as well as my school and professional community	<b>Standards:</b> 4a, 4b, 4c, 5c, 5d

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Pre-Assessment**

Answer a short series of questions to discover what you do and don't know about 21st Century Skills - Level 1 and to think about your goals for this course. At the end of the course, you will take a short, summative post-assessment quiz, which offers you the opportunity to measure your growth.

### **Section 1: Introduction**

What are 21st century skills and what do they look like in action in a classroom? Explore some 21st century classrooms and observe how they are preparing kids for the future.

### **Section 2: Profile of the 21st Century Learner**

Some people call them “digital natives,” some call them “active learners,” some simply refer to them as “Generation Z.” Whatever you want to call them, these learners have some unique traits, which when understood, will help teachers engage them in their education.

### **Section 3: Demonstrating Media Literacy**

Digital literacy, knowing how to use tools safely and wisely, and media literacy, knowing how to critically consume and produce media messages, are the focus of this section. Teachers and students share their wisdom regarding media and the role it plays in their lives.

### **Section 4: Connecting, Communicating, Collaborating**

Visit classrooms that have established norms for cooperation and collaboration and watch kids practice these 21st century skills. In addition, learn how to use online tools to connect, communicate, and collaborate with communities you create.

### **Section 5: Solving Problems & Critical Thinking**

Rather than direct instruction, memorization and the regurgitation of information, 21st century skills are directed toward helping learners solve problems and think critically. Investigate some great ideas for teaching problem solving and strategies you can use with your classes that encourage critical thinking.

### **Section 6: Using Technology to Facilitate 21st Century Learning**

See how technology is transforming not only the look of but also the approach to learning in the 21st century. As you examine the materials in this section you can gather some ideas for how you could blend technology into your own curriculum.

### **Section 7: Analyzing Data & Using Research Skills**

It's time to become familiar with some amazing research tools and to develop tricks to strategically search the Internet.

### **Section 8: Assessing 21st Century Skills**

Take a look at classrooms that have accepted the challenge of incorporating authentic assessments to evaluate learning in the 21st century classroom and examine some rubrics that may be used to assess these skills.

### **Section 9: Conclusion**

### **Post-Assessment**

Answer a series of questions designed to give you a summative analysis of how much you learned about teaching with 21st Century Skills - Level 1. It will also help you check to see if you met your goals for this course. In addition, please make sure that you have submitted your Assessments of Knowledge (AOKs).

## CONTRIBUTORS' BIOS

**Jennifer Gibson**, MA with an emphasis in technology, curriculum expert and professional trainer for 19 years, has presented to thousands of educators on topics including educational technology, English language development, and literacy. In 2010, she won the Santa Barbara Crystal Apple Teacher of the Year and Technology Innovator of the Year awards.

**Rich Dixon**, MA-TESL, brings over 19 years of experience as a teacher, administrator, staff developer, Director of IT, and Curriculum Coordinator. Whether leading EdTech courses or launching new schools, he strives to improve the effectiveness of instruction through intentional application of educational technology.