# Overview of WHRO Digital Learning Courses

The purpose of this video is to tell you more about the online courses produced by WHRO. Our goal in posting these courses online during the school closures is to provide a resource that can help students on their academic journey. WHRO is owned by 21 school divisions in the Hampton Roads region. We're able to use teachers and administrators in the online course creation process as listed here.

Teachers and administrators help write the course content and assessments, they review the courses, they provide feedback for any needed modifications, and they align the course content to our state standards, all before we ever deliver a final version of a course. This slide here lists a number of characteristics about the online courses.

Finally, a quick background note is to let you know that WHRO follows two sets of national standards. One, the National Standards for Quality Online Courses, and Quality Matters K-12 publisher rubric that we use when we have courses reviewed.

Now let's take a look at the [Digital Learning website](https://digitallearning.whro.org/) (https://digitallearning.whro.org/) and see what's behind all of the links that we've made available. Here on the webpage you'll see links for all of the courses. I'll scroll down the page here. Right now, let's go into the World Geography course. I'm going to go into two, the first one is World Geography, because there's two different formats I want to highlight for you.

You'll see here at the top of the World Geography course page, there are some instructional resources that are available. One is the course outline that shows an instructor how the course is designed, what the units of study look like, what are the learning objectives, what standards of learning are aligned to which topic, which is also the name of the lesson, and what learning activities or assessments could an instructor use with each one of these lessons. This is a lengthy document, but it's very handy and very useful for an instructor.

The other instructional resource that we've posted right now is what we call the Assignment Checklist or an Assignment List. It also provides access to different learning activities. Some can be graded, some can be non-graded, however an instructor would want to use them, and where they're found in each course, and each part of the course, and what is it that they do? What's the activity type? This is a smaller document, but it does lay all of this out in a really nice, neat, and organized way.

After that, of course, we'll start with what we call a course overview. It just sets the stage. This one, for example, has a theme where students are basically interns that work for a company called GEOTREX, where they're going to travel the world and help provide content in what they learn and what they experience. It also has a learning object here that outlines the theme. It sets the stage, it tells students how they can navigate, and what they can find useful all throughout this course.

And then there's another section too called Student Resources that provides all types of supporting materials for students some how-tos, if an assignment asks them to access eMediaVA, how can they access it? This is a great resource for students as they're going through the course content.

Then what you find throughout this page, as I scroll down, as you'll find what we call modules that equals units of study. There are 12 in this course. This is laid out in two columns here. Let's go into a unit and talk about how it's laid out. Each unit starts with a module overview. As we look here at the Latin America and the Caribbean overview, it has some information about what you're going to learn. This one starts with a game, so when we see an object like this, it could be a game, it could be a content interactivity-

I'll start the game. This one's, again, just meant for students to see what they know.

And they're not held accountable at this point, and I got one right.

Each unit of study also begins with listing all the vocabulary that students will learn throughout the entire unit. You can click on these and look at the definitions and help you. Then of course we have all the learning objectives for the whole unit listed on this link, and then underneath that, the module's laid out in what we call topics, that equals a lesson.

Each topic in this World Geography course has four links, sometimes it could have five, if it has, over here you'll see there's two content pages. Let's just quickly at some of these parts. There's an introduction to a lesson, it lists the essential questions, what students should learn and be able to answer at the end of this topic. It'll have some type of a warmup activity that gets students to start thinking about something that's related to the content.

Then in the content page, you'll see that there's a lot of information provided for students in a variety of different methods. This is where students can learn more through the interactivity, so the images to the graphics. Here, I'll click on one of the learning objects.

As a student, I can click these in any order. I could-

... all right, I clicked on the closed captioning, so you can see that in the newer learning objects that have been designed, there is the ability to put on closed captioning. Also, as a part for a number of reasons for accessibility, there are two different supporting documents for every learning object that presents content or allows students to engage with the content. One is a printable version. This is a PDF that has a copy of all of the text of what is spoken in a text format along with the images that are shown in a graphic.

It also has a compliant ADA transcript, and that is a transcript of what is spoken, and can be used in a variety of different devices to help students with learning. All of the learning objects have one or both of those.

At the end of all the content, there's always what we call... it's a content review or it's a content practice. It is a self-graded, auto-graded, excuse me, assessment that is really a quiz for students to just check their knowledge before they're put into the next part of the lesson where they would be graded and provided feedback by a teacher's student. This is just that, it literally is, I'll start one here for a moment, a way for me to check do I know what was the largest island in the Caribbean? Check.

One thing about these is you'll get not just that it's right, you'll get the feedback that tells you why it's right or why it's wrong. I'll click on one for a moment, and you'll see that it doesn't say I'm wrong, it also tells me why I'm wrong. It gives me the right answer of what I should have known. If I had gone to this, and I'm just going to click now, I'm not really going to pay attention to my answers. I'm going to get to the end of this review so that you can see that it allows students to be able to see how they performed.

I did not do well in this case. I could go back and review all of the answers, I could retry it. I could print my results, I could put a name in here, and I could then see the data about how I performed. A teacher could ask students to take a screenshot of this if you wanted to, to see that students are doing work, and to see how... or you could ask them to retake it until they get at least a score of 70, 75, 80, whatever a teacher would want to set for that.

After the content, then we go into what's called an application. This is what we would say is an assignment, like a homework assignment for students. These vary, and that's where that opening documentation for teachers to see the assignment checklist, this would be one of the possible assignments that you could choose to use.

In this one, they're going to be using, I believe, some data to make some graphs and pie graphs on this assignment. The assignments will all have either what's called a checklist or we'll have a rubric for assessment. A teacher can absolutely take this and modify it if they want. They don't have to use this, but it's available. We provide those instructional assessment supports in the online courses.

And then each lesson ends with a quick summary of what did you learn in this topic, and sometimes it has what's called an Extend Your Learning. Maybe students were particularly interested in a specific topic that was in this lesson, and maybe they want to learn a little more, so there's sometimes ways to extend the learning provided as well.

At the end of a whole unit of study, there would be what's called a module assessment. Because these courses right now are outside of any learning management system, the question banks are not here right now, but what is here is another way to assess student learning through more of a project that would be available for them. With these projects, there's always, again, if it needed a template, this one has... it's going to be an app that students are going to design here. There would be a template that would support this piece of the curriculum. There's also a checklist or a rubric, if it was a written type of assignment, that are here that are also in a format that teachers have the ability to modify or change however they want, these are available.

In our online courses, then again, when you look at every unit of study, there's a lot there, and there is a module summary that wraps up the entire module. This is one format. I'm not going to spend a lot of time on, but I am going to show you just the difference in the look and the feel of... I'm going into now the Earth Science course. This would be what I would call a tab course. It has the same instructional resources available for teachers, it still has units of study. It's organized a little bit differently. I think there are 12 in this one as well.

It has a module overview just like we did before, has a game, has the vocabulary. It has the lessons here... topics, lessons. If I go into one of these, you'll see that instead of having a single link for each individual part of the lesson, like the World Geography course did, this course has tabs across the top. So it's the same parts, you have the introduction, warmup has its own separate link, then that content, similar to what we did before, has a lot of content. It still has a review for students to check their knowledge. It has that application which is that homework assignment.

In this case, in this course, it is a scientific investigation, one that they could actually even do at home. This content is all available. It has the supporting materials, it has it also in a Word document that you could bring down, you can ask students to do... This is a lab report they could fill out and submit to you if you would want. And then of course, each lesson ends with a summary, like we said before, and it also has an Extend Your Learning.

And then finally, in this Earth Science course, you'll see that again, each unit of study has... this one is called an authentic assessment. It's a module assessment about something you could have students go out and do or assess their knowledge about the whole unit of study. This gives you a really quick outline of what's in these courses and what's behind every one of these links. There's a lot of content here. If you have any questions, we've provided an email address up here. Feel free to write and ask for any additional questions.