

The Department of French & Italian of Indiana University Bloomington is pleased to announce the PhD dissertation defense of

Luisa Garrido Baez

La gamificazione come risorsa educativa: Motivazione, acquisizione e differenziazione nei corsi universitari online di lingua straniera

Friday, September 4, 2020

10:00 am via Zoom

This is a closed dissertation defense.

Abstract:

This thesis is on the subject of the use of elements derived from videogames, such as points scoring, badges, leaderboards etc. to be implemented in elementary foreign language programs online classes in order to improve motivation and reinforce automatism in the target language. This thesis questions the use of videogames and some of their elements in class as a way to attract and engage students and have the potential to increase motivation and improve academic education.

Can videogames be an innovative and efficient tool to attract the diverse student body and at the same time promote fluency and proficiency through a fun and playful environment? How do video games innovate the 21st century foreign language class? How do they address learning objectives for foreign language teaching in traditional, hybrid and online environments? How can they address the needs of diverse learners in contemporary higher education contexts?

Can the use of elements of games be integrated in online classes as an additional technological instrument that instead of distracting students would actually help them to focus in an active learning process?

Through the self-determination theory of human motivation and needs, social and reward-based theories about intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, this thesis aims to show how videogames have intrinsic elements, such as challenges, strategies and rewards that are beneficial and motivate students when studying a foreign language in an online setting. Not only that, but “gamifying a course” helps with differentiation (tailoring instruction to meet individual needs) and the automatization of the target language in order to be fluent and precise at the same time.

Committee:

Colleen Ryan, Chair

Marco Arnaudo

Andrea Ciccarelli

Massimo Scalabrini

All committee members are professors in the Department of French & Italian