



**DOMINICAN  
UNIVERSITY**  
of CALIFORNIA  
*School of Liberal Arts and Education*

**EXPLORING TED TALKS AND BOOKS**

**Discovering the Adventure of Your Life's Journey**

**EDUO 9778 One Semester Credit/Unit**

**Instructor Joe Herz**

[jherz@dominicancaonline.com](mailto:jherz@dominicancaonline.com)

**Public Syllabus – This syllabus contains assignment examples. The full syllabus will be available to registered students.**

Welcome to **EDUO 9778!** This class was created by Dominican University of California in conjunction with Educational Development and Services as part of a nine-course series. Each course involves studying and discussing a TED book, online TED Talks and other web resources. The courses are focused on encouraging teachers to acquire knowledge and wisdom for both classroom application and personal growth; knowledge and wisdom to help negotiate, make sense of and be successful in life both in and out of the classroom.

The other courses in the series are:

- **EDUO 9770 Authentic vs. Incentive Motivation**
- **EDUO 9771 Building the Future With Creativity and Insight**
- **EDUO 9772 Learning is a Process**
- **EDUO 9773 Perception is Reality**
- **EDUO 9774 Technology's Effect on Humanity**
- **EDUO 9775 Change – Your Choice**
- **EDUO 9776 The Need to Explore**
- **EDUO 9777 The Power of Self Determination**

**Discovering the Adventure of Your Life's Journey**

**Course Description**

This course will use a TED Talk book, online TED Talks and web resources to help the teacher prepare students to be self-determined learners

## Course Goal

By listening, reading and writing the teacher will gain new insights into what motivates students to want to learn and become lifelong self-starters

## Course Objectives

The participant will:

- Through web resources experience methods of determining self-awareness
- Read and review the TED Book *The Boiling River: Adventure and Discovery* by Andres Ruzo
- Transform the message of the book *The Boiling River* to a message for the classroom
- View six TED Talks and relate the content of each talk to the importance of the search for self-awareness
- Make a written statement of why it is just as important for students to have the knowledge of who they are as it is to have knowledge about the world

## Grading Rubric

Exemplary: A+ to A-	Acceptable: B+ to B-	Unacceptable:
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignments are clearly stated	Satisfactorily completes all assignments	Ideas are not clear or relevant
Very well organized	Generally well organized	Shows little or no organization
Responses show that resources have been well understood	Responses show that resources were read	Few or no facts or specific details from the resources
Free of spelling and/or grammatical errors	Writing contains a few spelling and/or grammatical errors	Numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors make the writing difficult to read

## Course Requirements

1. View, read and study all online website resources.
2. *The Boiling River: Adventure and Discovery* by Andres Ruzo
3. View all assigned TED Talks.
4. Respond to all inquiries concerning the book, talks and resources.
3. Post at least five comments on the Class Forum.

## Required Materials

1. Textbook – TED book *The Boiling River: Adventure and Discovery* by Andres Ruzo

[https://www.amazon.com/Boiling-River-Adventure-Discovery-Amazon/dp/1501119478/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1490910376&sr=1-1&keywords=the+boiling+river+TED](https://www.amazon.com/Boiling-River-Adventure-Discovery-Amazon/dp/1501119478/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1490910376&sr=1-1&keywords=the+boiling+river+TED)

2. Online Ted Talks

- “How I Found a Mythical Boiling River in the Amazon”
- “How I Learned to Communicate My Inner Life With Asperger’s”
- “On Genius”

3. Web Site Resources

- “Answering the Question”
- “Figure Out Who You Are”

## Course Assignments

### A. Web Resources Assignments

1. View the two web resources – “Answering the Question and ”Figure Out Who You Are”

- <http://thedailylove.com/answering-the-question-%E2%80%9Cwho-am-i%E2%80%9D/>
- <http://www.wikihow.com/Figure-Out-Who-You-Are>

1. Briefly compare and contrast the learning methods of the two web resources

### Place your A1 assignment work into the Assignment A Dropbox

### Online Forum Post Assignment #1

a. Reword the quotation below from the book *The Boiling River* to fit a message you would give to your students about their future life and how they should be excited about that adventure. The 1<sup>st</sup> online post is that message.

*“At a time when everything seems mapped, measured, and understood, this river challenges what we think we know. It has forced me to question the line between known and unknown, ancient and modern, scientific and spiritual. It is a reminder that there are still great wonders to be discovered. We find them not just in the black void of the unknown but in the white noise of everyday life—in the things we barely notice, the things we almost forget, even in a detail of a story”.*

b. Respond to the Online Post #1 of at least one other student.

**Place your Online Post into Forum #1. Post your peer response(s) into the same Forum**

## B. Book Assignment - The Boiling River

Read the book *the Boiling River: Adventure and Discovery* by Andres Ruzo

Write a **Reflective Review** of the book covering your overall impression of the way the book is written and your opinion of what it has to do with discovering the adventure of your life's journey'.

### Place your assignment work into the Assignment B Dropbox

## C. TED Talks Assignments

1. View the TED Talk – “How I Found a Mythical Boiling River in the Amazon” – Andres Ruzo

- [http://www.ted.com/talks/andres\\_ruzo\\_how\\_i\\_found\\_a\\_mythical\\_boiling\\_river\\_in\\_the\\_amazon](http://www.ted.com/talks/andres_ruzo_how_i_found_a_mythical_boiling_river_in_the_amazon)

The presenter is the author of the book and his TED talk has similar content. Comment on the effectiveness of learning repetitive material when the delivery systems are different.

2. View the TED Talk - “How I Learned to Communicate My Inner Life with Asperger’s” by Alix Generous

- [http://www.ted.com/talks/alix\\_generous\\_how\\_i\\_learned\\_to\\_communicate\\_my\\_inner\\_life\\_with\\_asperger\\_s/transcript?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/alix_generous_how_i_learned_to_communicate_my_inner_life_with_asperger_s/transcript?language=en)

“I struggled to fit in socially. My friends would tell jokes, but I didn't understand them”

After listening to Alix's many jokes during her Ted Talk - comment on what you think her adventures were like along her life's journey.

3. View the TED Talk – “Genius” – Elizabeth Gilbert

- [http://www.ted.com/talks/elizabeth\\_gilbert\\_on\\_genius/transcript?language=en](http://www.ted.com/talks/elizabeth_gilbert_on_genius/transcript?language=en)  
How would you go about teaching “Ole!”

### Place your c1, c2, c3, c4, c5 and c6 assignment work as 1 document into the Assignment C Dropbox

## Online Forum Post Assignment #2

- a. Comment on your thoughts and feelings upon viewing your favorite three of the six Ted Talks.
- b. Respond to others' posts as you wish.

**Place your Online Post into Forum #2. Post your peer response(s) into the same Forum.**

#### **D. Concluding Assignments**

1. Your principal has asked you to give a TED Type Talk to your school's PTA. They want to know why it is just as important for a teacher to help students to discover who **they** are as it is to discover **who** did what and when and why.

- a. Write out your introduction to your Ted Type Talk.
- b. Outline the body of the talk.
- c. Write out your conclusion.

**Place your assignment work into the Assignment D Dropbox**