* What do I hope to accomplish by taking a course in Instructional Design?
* By the end of the course I hope that I have a clear strategy of using my knowledge, resources, and experiences of successful learning in a traditional sense and adapting this to effective online instruction and e-learning. I know that this will require me to re-think and adapt my pedagogy to the learning environments that I hope to participate in. I know from a traditional classroom that effective learning happens when the teacher becomes the facilitator of information and guides students, using a variety of instructional strategies, towards solutions. I believe that for online learning and effective e-learning to take place, ‘teachers’ (learning facilitators) and ‘students’ (learners) must take on new roles in the teaching–learning relationship. Instructional design is the bridge that connects our use, and continual advancement, of technology with our understanding of effective learning strategies. I hope by the end of this course that I keep learning, not technology, at the center of my wish to develop online and e-learning environments.
* I was recently reflecting on the events surrounding the Christchurch earthquake in relation to the rebuilding of that city. I related this to the rebuilding of the way that I see myself as a ‘teacher’ in the future. I feel at the present moment that a lot of the ways I have taught in the past have crumbled with the advancement in technology, particularly that the younger generation has embraced the use of new technology so readily and positively. All the ‘paper’ resources I have piled up at home, all the experiences that I have that I know work but are designed for a traditional classroom, and all the strategies that I used to motivate the learners that I came in contact with everyday don’t seem ‘relevant’ anymore. It’s like I’m looking at the Christchurch CBD but it’s my last 15 years of teaching. I recently took the opportunity last year to reflect on how I might evolve as a ‘teacher’.
* Not to sound too dramatic, but the whole teacher/student paradigm is done. It’s ineffective and it will not be part of learning in the future. Many of the buildings in Christchurch are of the past. Christchurch will be rebuilt using current technologies to design sustainable buildings that still capture the essence of the city.

What do I hope to accomplish from a course in Instructional Design? I want to adapt the effective instructional strategies that I have developed and used, often in the ‘traditional’ classroom, and combine this with my philosophy of learning and my understanding of cognitive science to online learning. I want to design learning environments that will be effective in the future but still hold the essence of myself as a learner and as a facilitator of learning.