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# A Blended Learning Framework for Saudi Higher Education

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# Introduction

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- Teaching and learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- The need for a change in HE
- The emergence of the term

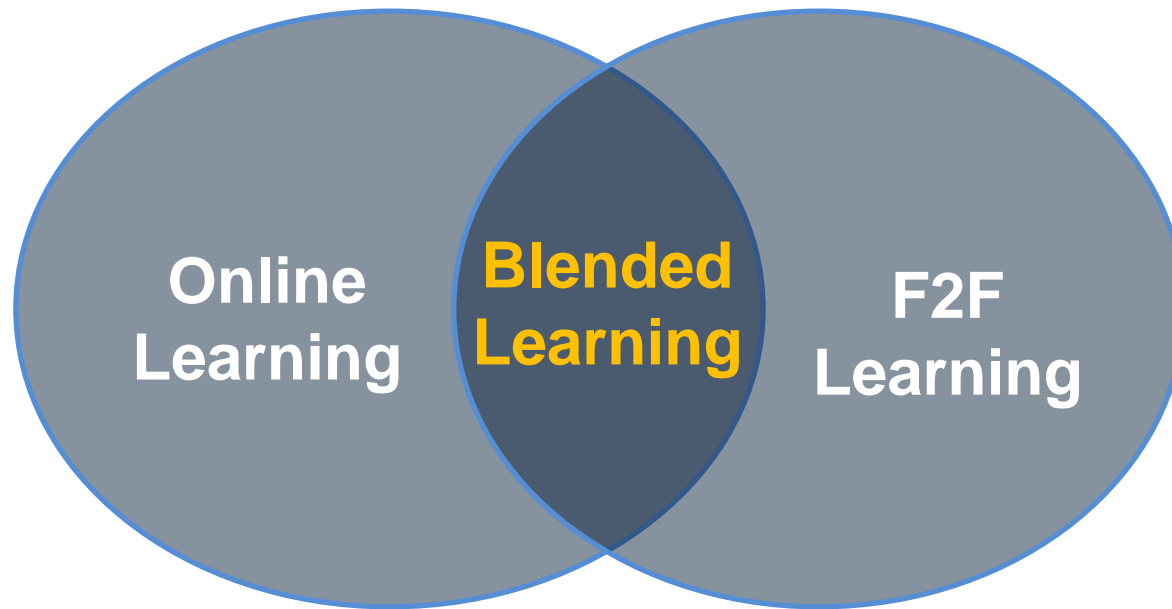


*Blended Learning = Hybrid learning = Mixed-mode learning*

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# Blended Learning Definition

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Enabling Blend

Enhancing Blend

Transforming Blend

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# Blended Learning Definition

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"Replacing portion of face-to-face time by online activity in a planned, pedagogically valuable manner"

*(Laster, Otte, Picciano & Sorg, 2005)*

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# Blended Learning Rationale

The most common purpose of blended learning is the possibility of combining the best of both traditional and online learning

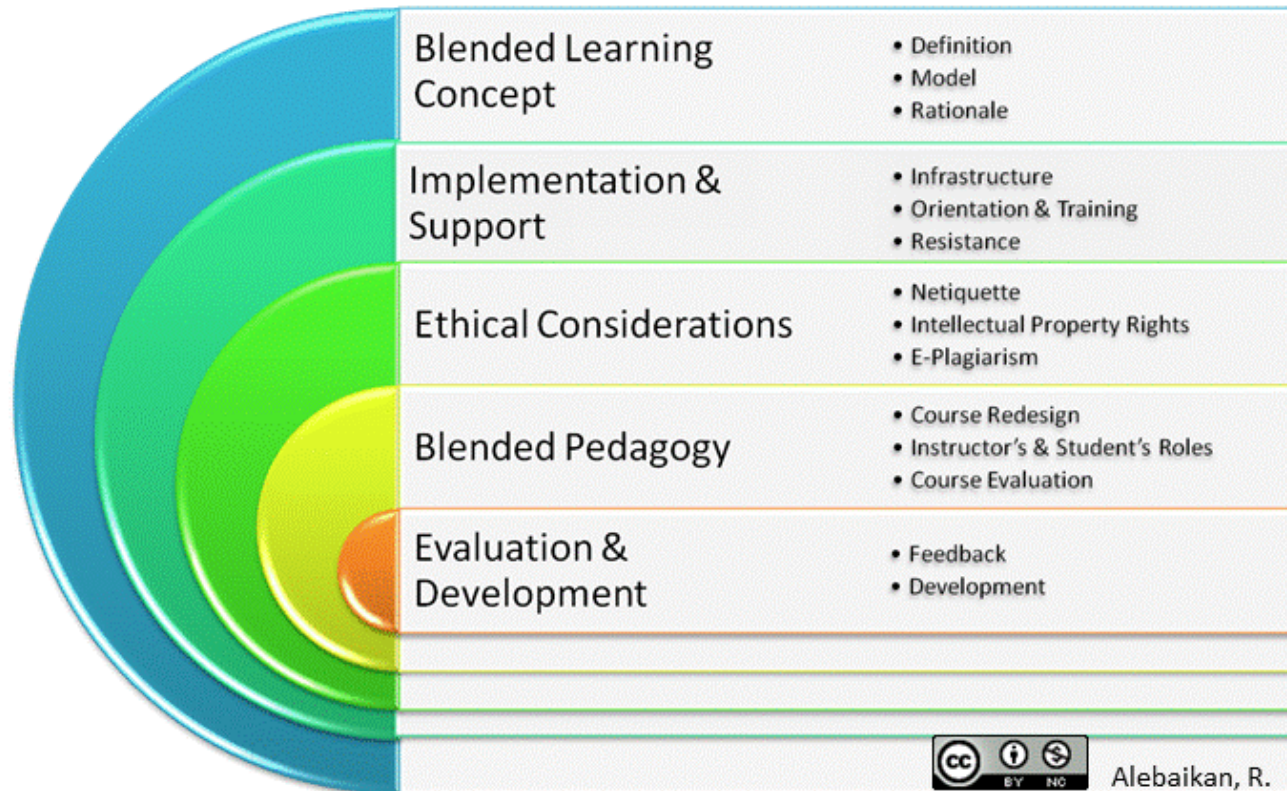
“Blended learning addresses the issue of quality of teaching and learning” *(Garrison & Vaughan, 2008)*

- Facilitate access and flexibility, improve pedagogy, simplify revision, increase cost-effectiveness, improve performance
- Human elements, Rural areas, Health disasters- SARS, H1N1, Interaction – shyness, cultural issues, number of University students

# Blended Learning in Saudi Arabia



# Blended Learning Framework



# Blended Learning Concept

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- Definition
- Model
  - (% of we-based instruction, elements of BL, objectives of the course)
- Rationale



# Implementation and Support

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- Infrastructure (Computer Labs, Internet Access, LMS...
  - Orientation and Training ( Technical skills, Teaching and learning skills...
  - Resistance
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# Blended Pedagogy

“The theoretic basis from a pedagogical perspective is very rudimentary, with much of the development being on the technical level”  
(Cook, 2002)

- Course redesign
- Instructors' and students' roles
- Course evaluation



# Ethical Considerations

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- Intellectual Property Rights
- Plagiarism
- Netiquette



# Evaluation and Quality of Learning

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- Feedback
- Development
- Students' learning experience
- Quality of teaching and learning
- High level of technical skills
- Independency in online learning



# Conclusions

- There is a low level of knowledge about blended learning in Saudi Higher Education
- Blended learning has a great potential for the development of Saudi Higher Education
- One major challenge to be considered in Saudi universities is the adaptation of blended learning in a traditional didactic environment
- Careful consideration of the concept of blended learning and pedagogy strategies is essential for promised outcomes
- Blended learning centre - developing standards for the design of blended courses