ISP 1600 for Fall 2005
Web.Edu: How Internet Courses Work

Seventh meeting
October 29, 2005

http://www.is.wayne.edu/drbowen/WebEduF05
Moodle

• Grades (Fake Account)
• Subscribing / unsubscribing
  o Profile, Forum auto-subscribe:
    • Choose “do not automatically subscribe me to forums”
  o Forum: click on “unsubscribe from this forum”
Other Systems #1

• ‘Static content’
  o Unchanging, read-only
  o Examples: what would be handouts, e.g. Syllabus

• “Dynamic content”
  o User contributes
  o Examples: discussion, chant, IM

• Online course needs both
Other Systems #2

• Have been using Moodle
  o “Course Management System” - CMS
  o Can be set up with pre-existing accounts, same as Blackboard
  o Can also handle static contact (e.g. handouts)

• Blackboard
  o WSU Standard
  o Also a Course Management System – handles static and dynamic content
  o Just bought main competitor (WebCT)
Other Systems #3

• Regular public web site (e.g. course web site) for static content
  o No accounts, no login
  o Easier to preview a course

• Conferencing add-on for web site
  o Webboard

• Pipeline
  o “Portal” – No course content but links to it
Other Systems #4

• ListServ
  o Discussion using normal email
  o Cannot arrange topics, so can be confusing
  o Many feel using normal email is easier – course comes to you
Other Systems #5

• Comparison
  o CMS
    • Single place to go
    • Single login
  o “Roll your own” - combination
    • Can be confusing for users
    • Specialized tools often better
    • Less expensive
About the Internet

• Four ways to get to a web page
  o Type in the URL
  o Click on a text or graphical link
  o History list (only on that computer)
  o Make a favorite (IE) or bookmark (Netscape, Mozilla, Firefox) (only on that computer). Go to the page you want, then:
    • IE: Favorites / Add to Favorites (Organize Favorites)
    • Others: Bookmarks / Bookmark This Page (Organize Bookmarks)
Online life at WSU

• Check your WSU email ("xxnnnnn@wayne.edu")

• If you do not use it, forward it to an account you do use
  o Your Instructors expect to be able to reach you, especially for online courses
  o Check the forwarding – send an email to your WSU email address, see that you get it
Technical Issues: Overview

• These technical problems are getting rarer these days. Also find how to fix them here.

• Your Internet connection
  o How the Internet works
  o Fixing problems
    • Can’t connect
    • Dropped connection

• Email – mailbox full, what to do
Overview of Technical Issues

• Files not compatible, what to do
• Transferring files: email, web upload / download, FTP
• Managing your computer files
• Managing your passwords
• Learning new software
Overview of Technical Issues

• Computer crash, computer virus, computer worm, network down

• Getting help
  o You may know more than your Instructor
  o How to talk to a geek (computer support person)
Chapter 2: Types of Distance Ed

- Distance Ed: Learner does not have to be present on campus
  - Began 1728 with course by mail
- Today, many varieties – radio, TV, audiotape, videotape, newspaper, mail, Internet (growing popularity – versatile)
  - Hybrids - combination
- All levels, all topics
- Technology probably second to topic, quality
Chapter 3: How They Work

• Broadcast TV, VCR, audiotape
  o One-way, no discussion (maybe telephone)
  o Often turn assignments in by mail
  o Can review on your own

• Videoconference
  o Two-way real-time discussion
  o Must go to site on schedule
  o Sometimes can view tape of session afterwards
Chapter 3 #2

• Internet
  o Now mostly text
  o Can have chat, moderated chat
  o Good for interchange
  o In the future, will use more audio, video, webcam
  o Log on regularly, catch up, respond
  o Can reach more people
Chapter 5
What’s in Line for Me?

• Almost any topic can be studied online
  o Need to attend for labs, internships etc.
  o Usually need to attend for exams (why?)

• To succeed, need SMART goals
  o Specific, meaningful, affordable, reasonable, time-framed
  o Self-test on page 68

• Online does work, learning is effective
Chapter 5 #2

• Why study online?
  o NOT: faster, cheaper, easier, no people problems
  o YES: fit into schedule, manage moving or schedule changes, to far to campus, feeling timid when returning

• Being too busy may lead to disappointment

• Advantage: being active
Due last week…

• Email test. Send five different types of email as listed in Syllabus under “Moodle Registration and Email Test”

• I have specified some text for (d) on the course web site, but if you have already done this part, don’t re-do it.
For next week

- No class session next week (11/5)
- Discussion has switched to Blackboard
  - Eight Moodle postings, eight Blackboard, eight ListServ, total of 26 (add two)
  - Average two postings per week
  - Topic 7 for Final – compare these three systems
- Read Chapter 6
In two weeks

• Class meeting on 11/12
• Read Chapter 9
Done!