

ISP 1600 for Fall 2007  
Web.Edu: How Internet Courses Work

Fifth meeting

October 7, 2007

<http://www.is.wayne.edu/drbowen/WebEduF07>

# Class names

- Initial the signin sheet
- Review of names
- Pictures (the last time)
- Moodle reminder (not in printed notes):
  - A posting that is really a reply but is posted as a new topic loses credit
  - Get credit back by reposting as a reply

# Moodle

- **Subscribing to a Forum:**
  - Moodle subscription means – getting forum messages emailed to you.
    - Can be a lot of messages in your email inbox
    - On the other hand, the each message has a link straight to that Forum. Reading and replying are easier.
  - Two methods:
    1. Participants > your name > Edit Profile > Show Advanced, pick Forum Auto-subscribe option
    - In a Forum click on “Subscribe to this forum”

# Course Overview

2. What is different about online courses?  
“Autonomy and Responsibility”
  - a. The online discussion is the star
  - b. If you start to feel you are out there all alone, and you run into any trouble, then you will probably do badly or drop out

# Online courses

- What scares most people, starting out?
  - Technical issues
    - Computer and Internet connection
    - Skills
- What actually gives the most trouble?
  - Managing yourself
    - Scheduling
    - Discipline
    - Motivation

# Non-technical Issues

- Overview: active rather than passive



<b>Passive</b>	<b>Active</b>
Listen	Ask
Absorb	Explore
Store for later	Use now
Keep doubts to self	Make doubts public
Hide from faculty	Seek out faculty

# Non-technical Issues

<b>Passive</b>	<b>Active</b>
“I’m having trouble”	“We’re having trouble”
“Teacher can’t teach”	“We’re having trouble”
Why did you grade me down?	What should I do better?
Teach me	Help me learn

Non-technical issues are much more important for online students than technical problems

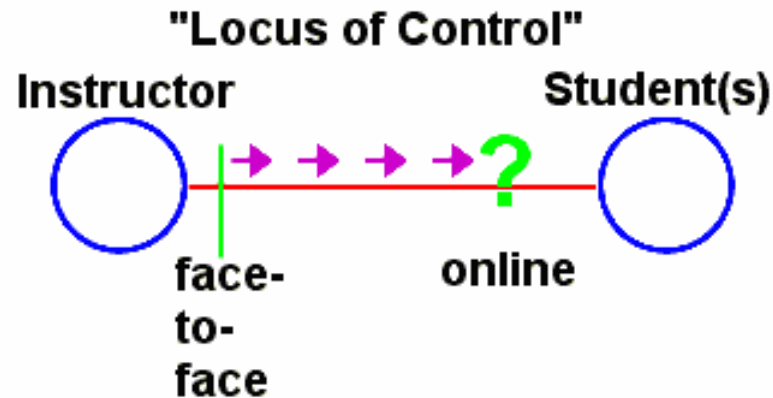
# Positives

- Can preview a course, often start early
- Online discussion
  - Must be critical mass of participants
  - Jump in, have opinions, express them, pay attention to others
  - No one person should dominate so much that others are discouraged – “board jacking”
  - Using HTML formatting – good in Moodle

# Positives (cont'd)

- Online discussion – what do people like?
  - More space to say what you have
  - Can express yourself carefully
  - Use back-and-forth to explore others' opinions
  - Can help others, make a contribution
  - Informal, fun, part of a community
  - Shy people can shine

# Positives (cont'd)



- More control, autonomy
  - More opportunity to say your piece
  - Introduce new topics, explore others in depth
  - Influence pace, style, feel, assignments

# Positives (cont'd)

- Get to know others better
- Flexibility in schedule
- New, different
- Special circumstances:
  - New child
  - Injured or disabled
  - Traveling
  - Have the time, but schedule irregular

# Negatives

- Responsibility to keep up (Web Hub?)
  - Work can pile up faster – no “seat time”
  - If Instructor confusing, no one else to ask questions
  - Large blocks of time more efficient, may be hard to find
    - Some students feel they will be able to “fit it in”

# Negatives (cont'd)

- Responsibility to keep up (Web Hub?)
  - Not easier than face-to-face – more work to make up for seat time
  - In a crisis, the online course seems to be easiest to put off
- WebHub
  - Download it to your desktop
  - Reminds you, has all needed links

# Negatives (cont'd)

- Working more independently
  - Be able to read and follow directions, recognize when you are confused and get help
  - Can feel that you are out there all alone
  - Can be reluctant to ask for help

# Negatives (cont'd)

- People who have problems:
  - Thought you had time, but really didn't
  - Don't "get into" online discussion
  - Late or slow start

# Negatives (cont'd)

- How to contact Instructor – use a good method
  - Online course site
  - Email
  - Telephone
  - Face-to-face

# About the Internet

- Four ways to get to a web page
  - Type in the URL
  - Click on a text or graphical link
  - History list (only on that computer)
  - 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 (“xxnnnn@wayne.edu”)
- If you do not use it, forward it to an account you do use
  - Your Instructors expect to be able to reach you, especially for online courses
  - Check the forwarding – send an email to your WSU email address, see that you get it

# Chapter 1

- Quick study: Preview, View, Review
  - All material is still there
- Share your knowledge, insights
  - “Teach to learn”
  - Active learning
- Recognize when you need help and get it
  - Confused?
  - Stuck?

# Due This Week

- Study Schedule – turn in using Moodle

# For next week

- Web Hub?
  - Download it to your desktop – it will remind you, and has all of the links you need.
- In textbook, read Chapter 2
- One or two posts to “Course discussion”
- First skipped class meeting 10/13 (next week)
- Next meeting: two weeks (10/20)

# Coming Up:

- Starting 10/20 (after class), online discussion moves to BlackBoard
  - Try to make sure that you have eight posts to Moodle Forums by then
  - The eight include “Introduce Yourself” and “Starting out”
- Due 10/20 – email test. Send five different types of email as listed in Syllabus under “Moodle Registration and Email Test”

# Email Test

1. Email directly to me (d.r.bowen@wayne.edu)
2. Email to someone else with a CC to me
3. Reply to an email message that someone else sends you, with a CC to me
4. Copying and pasting specified text from the course web site into an email message to me.
  - Text at [www.is.wayne.edu/drbowen/WebEduF07](http://www.is.wayne.edu/drbowen/WebEduF07)
5. Attaching a file (any file, but a small one, please) to an email message and sending it to me.

Done!