

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

Seventh meeting

October 27, 2007

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

Moodle (Review)

- Grades
- Subscribing / unsubscribing (two ways)
 1. Profile, Forum auto-subscribe, Show Advanced:
 - Choose “do not automatically subscribe me to forums”
 2. Forum: click on “unsubscribe from this forum”

What do I say?

- What are people most nervous about before registering for an online course?
 - Technical issues – skills, online connection, etc.
- For people who like online courses, what is it they like?
 - Online discussion – speak up, be yourself, explore
- What actually causes the most trouble in online courses?
 - Managing yourself – discipline, keeping at it
- This is not an online course, not an example

Other Systems #1 (Review)

- ‘Static content’
 - Unchanging, read-only
 - Examples: what would be handouts, e.g. Syllabus
- “Dynamic content”
 - User contributes
 - Examples: discussion, chat, IM
- Online course needs both

Other Systems #2 (Review)

- Have been using Moodle
 - “Course Management System” - CMS
 - Can be set up with pre-existing accounts, same as Blackboard
 - Can also handle static content (e.g. handouts)
- Blackboard
 - WSU Standard
 - Also a Course Management System – handles static and dynamic content
 - Just bought main competitor (WebCT)

Other Systems #3 (Review)

- Regular public web site (e.g. course web site) for static content
 - No accounts, no login
 - Easier to preview a course
- Conferencing add-on for web site
 - Webboard
- Pipeline
 - “Portal” – No course content but links to it

Other Systems #4 (Review)

- ListServ
 - Discussion using normal email
 - Cannot arrange topics, so can be confusing
 - Many feel using normal email is easier – course comes to you

Other Systems #5 (Review)

- Comparison
 - CMS
 - Single place to go
 - Single login
 - (new) Standard “look and feel” (administrators seem to like this, but Instructor can change look and feel)
 - “Roll your own” - combination
 - Can be confusing for users
 - Specialized tools often better
 - Less expensive
 - (new) Different look and feel prepares students for the real Internet, but they probably are used to this

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 (Review)

- 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

What You Need to Know Before Registering for an Online Class

Before the semester starts:

- Is the course online? (WSU definition)
- Are there required meetings (Online or IRL)? How many? When? Are there optional meetings?
- Is special software required beyond email and a web browser (usually not, but for example Business Schools often use Lotus Notes)
- Can you get a preview? Of a meeting?

What You Need to Know Before Registering for an Online Class

After the semester starts:

- What are the important web sites for the course (so you can bookmark them)
- How will changes be announced?
- If files are to be turned in electronically, is your software (for example Word Processor, Spreadsheet) compatible with the Instructor's? There should be a practice that does not count very much, before a crunch.

Things to Consider

(before registering for an online course)

- How strong is your motivation for taking this course? (strong motivation is better)
 - Your interest in the topic
 - Is it required?
- Are you attracted to the strong points of online courses? (discussion, exploration)
- Do you tend to be an active student, instead of a passive one? (As examples, do you resolve your confusion, ask for help?)

Technical Issues: Overview

- These technical problems are getting rarer these days. Also find how to fix them here.
- Your Internet connection
 - How the Internet works
 - Fixing problems
 - Can't connect
 - Dropped connection
- Email – mailbox full, what to do

Overview of Technical Issues

- Files not compatible, what to do
 - Went away for a long time, now coming back with Office 2007. (older *.doc Vs new *.docx)
- Transferring files: email, web upload / download, FTP (this last one is rare)
- Managing your computer files
- Managing your passwords
- Learning new software

Overview of Technical Issues

- Computer crash, computer virus, computer worm, network down
- Getting help
 - You may know more than your Instructor
 - How to talk to a geek (computer support person)

Chapter 2: Types of Distance Ed (Review)

- 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 (Review)

- Broadcast TV, VCR, audiotape
 - One-way, no discussion (maybe telephone)
 - Often turn assignments in by mail
 - Can review on your own
- Videoconference
 - Two-way real-time discussion
 - Must go to site on schedule
 - Sometimes can view tape of session afterwards

Chapter 3 #2 (Review)

- Internet
 - Now mostly text
 - Can have chat, moderated chat
 - Good for interchange
 - In the future, will use more audio, video, webcam
 - Log on regularly, catch up, respond
 - Can reach more people

Chapter 5

What's in Line for Me?

- Almost any topic can be studied online
 - Need to attend for labs, internships etc.
 - Usually need to attend for exams (why?)
- To succeed, need SMART goals
 - Specific, meaningful, affordable, reasonable, time-framed
 - Self-test on page 68
- Online does work, learning is effective

Chapter 5 #2

- Why study online?
 - NOT: faster, cheaper, easier, no people problems
 - YES: fit into schedule, manage moving or schedule changes, too 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), boxed at the top of 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 (11/3)
- Discussion has switched to Blackboard
 - Eight Moodle postings, eight Blackboard, eight ListServ, total of 24
 - Average two postings per week
 - Topic 7 for Final – compare these three systems
- Read Chapter 6
- **If you slack off, that is a danger signal.**

In two weeks

- Class meeting on 11/10
- Read Chapter 9
- Start thinking about the Essay – Online Courses Are Different Because...
 - Essay Planner, on course web site

Done!