

ISP 1600 for Fall 2005

Web.Edu: How Internet Courses Work

Fifth meeting

October 8, 2005

<http://www.is.wayne.edu/drbowen/WebEduF05>

Class names

- Initial the sign-in sheet
- Review of names
- Pictures (the last time)

Moodle

- What is there:
 - Recent activity (everyone, since the last time)
 - Under Administration, Activity report (yours)

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



Passive	Active
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

Passive	Active
“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

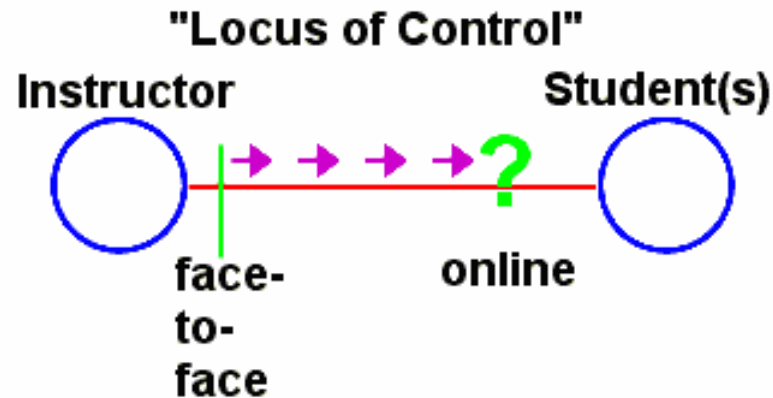
Positives

- 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

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 10/15 (next week)
- Next meeting: two weeks (10/22)

Coming Up:

- Starting 10/22 (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 10/22 – email test. Send five different types of email as listed in Syllabus under “Moodle Registration and Email Test”

Done!