

Exploring Web Based Communications (Session Overview)

Communication

Communication is an important part of teaching and learning, and the Internet opens up new opportunities to connect with students. This workshop will focus on the enhancement of communication through tools within Blackboard (email, discussion board, Wimba voice tools: voice email, voice announcements, voice podcaster, voice boards & Pronto) and look at some freely available web-based tools (tinychat, Skype and USTREAM). Collectively, these tools allow synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (any-time) communication from one-to-many class participants, or many-to-many (i.e. instructor to students, class or group discussion, etc.). Participants will discuss possible advantages and disadvantages of these tools in meeting particular instructional goals.

Note: an overview of the Wimba Classroom will be provided, but it will be covered in depth in a separate workshop.

By the end of this session you should be able to:

- List the communication tools within Blackboard
- Setup Wimba Tools which may be accessed through Blackboard
- Differentiate between synchronous and asynchronous communication
- Consider a range of uses for Twitter
- Call someone on their computer through the use of Skype
- Be able to identify one or more means of communication which might add value to your class

Key Questions

How does enhanced communication support learning?

How do Chickering and Gamson's 7 Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education relate to student and/or faculty communication?

- Good practice encourages contact between students and faculty
- Good practice develops reciprocity and cooperation among students
- Good practice uses active learning techniques
- Good practice gives students prompt feedback
- Good practice emphasizes time on task
- Good practice communicates high expectations
- Good practice respects diverse talents and ways of learning

Resources

- 7 Things You Should Know About Skype
<http://www.educause.edu/ELI/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAboutSkype/162373>
- Skype <http://www.skype.com>
- 7 Things You Should Know About Ustream
<http://www.educause.edu/ELI/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAboutUstre/163294>
- tinychat <http://tinychat.com>
- Teaching with Technology: Technology Tools for Supporting Communication and Collaboration,
<http://www.vcu.edu/cte/resources/technology/communication.htm> ECAR Study of Undergraduate Students and Information Technology, 2010
<http://www.educause.edu/Resources/ECARStudyofUndergraduateStuden/217333>

Thoughts, Questions, Notes:

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