



Chat Transcript for Session Topic: Effective feedback to 550 students

Discussion of
Baxter "A Case Study of Online Collaborative Work in a Large First Year Psychology Class"

Facilitated by
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Moderated by
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Date/Time	Author	Comment
29/05/2007 10:53:28	Gillian Roberts (GillianRoberts)	- Hi everyone, Welcome to this Session on "Effective Feedback to 550 Students". I would like to introduce Prof Derek Rowntree as the session facilitator, also joining us to discuss the case study is author Professor Jim Baxter. I'm your moderator!
29/05/2007 10:54:08	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Oh, I'm just a humble Dr...
29/05/2007 10:54:27	Gillian Roberts (GillianRoberts)	Me too Jim!
29/05/2007 10:55:26	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	Never mind the self-deprecation. WEhat about this fascinating case study? WEhaty have we got to say to Jim, or ask of him? Now's our chance
29/05/2007 10:56:27	Steve Draper (SteveDraper)	Jim: here's a starter question. The Cubric case seems very similar to yours, apart from scale (20 vs. 550 students). Do you see other important differences?
29/05/2007 10:57:16	Helen Rodger (hrodger)	hiwwYa
29/05/2007 10:57:17	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	One thing I'd like to know, Jim, is how you manage the logistics of lecturing to 500+ students on Monday mornings?
29/05/2007 10:57:32	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Derek,
29/05/2007 10:58:03	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	I don't - they have elctures on a Monday afternoon. But, they can't all be fitted into the one room so we use a videolink
29/05/2007 10:58:41	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Steve, I have yet to consider that comparison. But clearly you have thoughts.
29/05/2007 10:58:48	Mercedes Douglas (M Douglas)	Jim: Who helped you monitor the students' contributions?
29/05/2007 10:58:49	Alison Muirhead (AlisonMuirhead)	having been one of those student many moons ago, it actually works well - the really keen ones make sure they're there early to fit in the main room (or else sit on the stairs!)
29/05/2007 10:59:20	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	So the students do meet face to face, but not all at once or in the same room.
29/05/2007 10:59:39	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	MD. I had some help in the first semester on two of the projects. after that I was on my own.
29/05/2007 10:59:49	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Derek,
29/05/2007 11:00:08	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	But next semester you're going to have help again?



29/05/2007 11:00:10	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	They do, in the sense that any students do in a large lecture theatre.
29/05/2007 11:00:20	Robert McGregor (rmcgregor)	Jim, you say that some 1st yr students displayed work to 2nd or 3rd yr standard. Was this a feature of particularly gifted students or do you think there's a way of systemitising an acceleration in learning for all students?
29/05/2007 11:00:45	Mercedes Douglas (M Douglas)	What are the implications of having to read those thousands of comments?
29/05/2007 11:00:52	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	More help, yes. we couldn't do it this year and run a tutorial scheme at the same time. So we're scrapping tutorials.
29/05/2007 11:00:55	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	good question robert
29/05/2007 11:01:39	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	rm, I think there's been a genearl improvement. I won't know until we have the marks collated
29/05/2007 11:02:17	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	MD, I began to find it strangely addictive.
29/05/2007 11:03:22	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	do you think it was the dialogue and interaction that was the critical factor in the improvment?
29/05/2007 11:03:29	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	addiction a problem?
29/05/2007 11:03:30	Gillian Roberts (GillianRoberts)	So Jim to clarify, your course will run in future with lectures and online sessions only
29/05/2007 11:04:21	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	What do you see as the advantage of doing the lectures live rather than delivering them in recorded form?
29/05/2007 11:04:27	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	I should perhaps say that the mjority of students appeared just to accept that this scheme was they way things were going to be. I had only one mature student complain tht she came to learn from academics, not other students.
29/05/2007 11:04:49	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	going back to robert's question we have seen these results in other courses in reap with similar features
29/05/2007 11:05:04	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Gillian, yes. But there will alos be voluntary 'drop in 'clinics'
29/05/2007 11:05:47	Gillian Roberts (GillianRoberts)	Ok Jim so will this give you and coleagues the time to review postings?
29/05/2007 11:05:55	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	were their any cases of conflict/group dynamics problems within any of the groups? re contibution lack of activity etc
29/05/2007 11:06:13	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	derek, live lectures give students someone to realte to. I use a general discussion forum as backup to answer general quesries. The students like to have one person, at least, that they can relate to, even if most contact thereafter is online.
29/05/2007 11:06:49	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	WN, yes indeed, lack of activity more than conflict. I simply moved students who were dissatisfied to other groups.
29/05/2007 11:07:15	Mercedes Douglas (M Douglas)	Were tutorials not an option for the social interaction (friendships) you are worried about?
29/05/2007 11:07:17	radu catalin (karadu)	and this solve the problem?
29/05/2007 11:07:23	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Gilian, yes. We'll now be able to monitor all postings.
29/05/2007 11:07:40	Robert McGregor (rmcgregor)	David, that is very interesting. What implications does this have for the way we conceptualise "levels" of learning?
29/05/2007 11:07:54	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	MD, very selfom. They were more like postcards from Easter Island.
29/05/2007 11:08:00	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	Yes I can se the point of that initial contact, Jim. I just wonder if there might not be some way your groups could meet at least once before they start to work together apart?



29/05/2007 11:08:07	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	Jim, how much 'admin' time is taking you to organise these groups?
29/05/2007 11:08:41	Stuart McGugan (mcgugan)	yes i wondered about the admin also
29/05/2007 11:08:56	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	About three minutes at the start. WebCT does it all for me. Thereafter, a few minutes per week when moving people around.
29/05/2007 11:09:04	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	I think that in some instances we are holding students back perhaps by controlling too much and not allowing initial experimentation - to robert
29/05/2007 11:09:08	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	and shuffling students when necessary?!
29/05/2007 11:10:04	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	WN, yes, very little needed actually, relative to the size of the class. about 20-30 moves over the year.
29/05/2007 11:10:16	Madan Gupta (mgupta)	Jim, is it possible to adopt your model to students learning in distance education mode?
29/05/2007 11:10:35	Gillian Roberts (GillianRoberts)	Would anyone else like to comment on Robert and Davids lines about this approach enhancing students learning
29/05/2007 11:10:47	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	MG, I would say so yes, as long as the tutor is a regular presence online.
29/05/2007 11:11:31	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	Well the students certainly stand to be learning something else that's valuable besides the psychology.
29/05/2007 11:11:39	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Jim: how do you define 'regular'?
29/05/2007 11:11:39	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	Do you try to encourage them to "stick it out" (ie they have to learn to work with all sorts" or do you move all who ask?
29/05/2007 11:12:21	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Derek, some try to meet up. But most of them are ghosts in the machine, as I said recently, as far as each other. But in a huge class like that most have always been strangers to each other.
29/05/2007 11:13:40	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	is there a set of face-to-face tutorials running in parallel to the lecture series and the online activity?
29/05/2007 11:13:52	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	WN. No, if they are dissatisfied I move them. No questions asked. Many students take the class as an elective and, necessarily, some just don't care and are unlikely to be moved by appeals to their esprit d' corps
29/05/2007 11:14:10	Gillian Roberts (GillianRoberts)	Derek do you mean becoming self regulating learners?
29/05/2007 11:14:17	Stuart McGugan (mcgugan)	interesting point about learning something else besides the psychology Wondered about what else they are learning?
29/05/2007 11:14:38	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	How about collaborative skills?
29/05/2007 11:14:43	Nigel Lindsey (njlindse)	Does anyone encourage students to give feedback on teh performance of other members of the group?
29/05/2007 11:14:53	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	learning how to work in groups maybe but jim has some data that suggest that they don't think of this as making friends
29/05/2007 11:14:53	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Lo, there was this year, but only four per year. It's not worth continuing with such a slight programme. Slight to the students - an enormous load to the department as there were 50+ tutorial groups to run.
29/05/2007 11:15:20	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	How frequent and for how long does the tutors "regular presence" online have to be?
29/05/2007 11:15:33	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	nj, there's been some discussion of this on the asynchronous forum.
29/05/2007 11:15:39	radu catalin (karadu)	Jim were students that you shoud 'move' more than once?



29/05/2007 11:16:06	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	WN, I'd say daily at least, if only for a few minutes.
29/05/2007 11:16:20	Madan Gupta (mgupta)	In regard to distance education, usually external students have work and other commitments and are only studying part-time. Do you think it will be feasible for the tutor to monitor online activity at odd hours? If so, how?
29/05/2007 11:16:27	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	ka, no I didn't have to move anyone twice.
29/05/2007 11:16:41	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	mg,
29/05/2007 11:16:49	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Jim: daily 7/7?
29/05/2007 11:17:32	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	I certainly did. I would log on sometimes in the evening. The students had a clear deadline for each task, of course, so they could contribute at any time over the course of a week.
29/05/2007 11:17:57	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	Online monitoring (and contributing) by tutors certainly happens routinely in Open University (UK) courses.
29/05/2007 11:17:57	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	I'd agree with 7/7 but you know the implications!
29/05/2007 11:18:08	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Gi, that might be a bit much to ask. 5/7 perhaps. Just to post one or two replies to remind students that you are there.
29/05/2007 11:20:03	Stuart McGugan (mcgugan)	tutor visibility is important?
29/05/2007 11:20:31	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Being provocative: would it be preferable to turn this entire class into an online one?
29/05/2007 11:20:45	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	Was all the student discussion online for all to see or was any of it one-to-one by email?
29/05/2007 11:20:50	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Mc, virtual visibility, yes. Although, as I say, I think it helps if students can also put a shape to the tutor.
29/05/2007 11:21:13	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	did you analyse in any way the level of usage? (as I understand they were asked group answers) did everyone post material or you had always the usual very frequent users?
29/05/2007 11:21:45	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	Did any students have any problems interacting online (IT phobia!)? Possibly this would only be found in students of an earlier generation!
29/05/2007 11:22:12	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Gil, no, for the reasons I suggested to Derek. hey like a bit of live work in a lecture theatre. It adds reality to the virtual exchanges, in my view.
29/05/2007 11:22:20	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	Jim, why did you move from short tasks (300 words) max in the pilot to 800 word essay in the full implementation? and will you stick with the latter?
29/05/2007 11:22:21	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	wrong to assume that all students are tech-savvy
29/05/2007 11:23:00	Gillian Roberts (GillianRoberts)	There were no grades for participation were there Jim but did you use any other carrots ...or perhaps whips? Will you reconsider this next year?
29/05/2007 11:23:01	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Lo, only superficially. Students posting activity can be tracked automatically by the VLE. we'll have more specific measures next year.
29/05/2007 11:23:18	Madan Gupta (mgupta)	As you know, most academics conduct research as well. How do you manage your time between research and teaching activities with such a large class?
29/05/2007 11:23:52	Tracey Winning (TraceyWinning)	Am interested in the contact hours for these students - your paper comments on changes to load next year
29/05/2007 11:23:52	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Jim: being even more provocative, how much is it the lecturer's love of face-face interaction and what they learn from that that is important and how much the students'?



29/05/2007 11:23:54	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	we have our course on webCT as well and a lot are simply lurking around...
29/05/2007 11:24:02	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	DN, meta-scaffolding, increasing complexity withing and across modules. yes, I'll stick with that.
29/05/2007 11:24:36	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Gill, not the lecturers at all... I enjoy it but I can certainly live without it.
29/05/2007 11:25:04	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	mg, I have plenty of time for my research.
29/05/2007 11:25:06	Steve Draper (SteveDraper)	GP: turn it all into online? I think that the F2F classes are a sig. part of setting an atmosphere of personal involvement by Jim, and htat that is a sig. part of the recipe. On the other hand, contrary to Derek's intuitions, I think this course shows
29/05/2007 11:25:21	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Fair enough. I love face-face as well - but it's not always possible and for 550, I'd possibly go online for better interaction.
29/05/2007 11:25:46	Nigel Lindsey (njlindse)	I would agree that students prefer face-to-face contact but then you don't have to use the time for lectures
29/05/2007 11:25:51	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	TW, I can't say how much time the students devoted to the work. That needs to be looked into.
29/05/2007 11:26:25	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	students report that they don't make friends online but this result needs to be unpacked
29/05/2007 11:26:38	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Gill, I think with the right kind of lecture you can inspire some of them a little. That was always what lecturing was suppoosed to be about in my book.
29/05/2007 11:26:56	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	David: let's unpack offline
29/05/2007 11:27:04	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	It's not so much "friends" I'd be thinking of Steve, but colleagues with a face to whom one learns to feel a certyain obigation not to let the side down!
29/05/2007 11:27:41	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Jim: Too right - lectures can inspire and they give a chance to do that first feel for who is likely to need a hand/be a pain!
29/05/2007 11:27:42	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	OK gillp
29/05/2007 11:28:01	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Derek, there was quite a lot of online aplogising going on when students were late. So, I'm not sure how much the direct contact matters to their sense of obligation.
29/05/2007 11:28:02	Steve Draper (SteveDraper)	DR: ok, but Jim has this covered by making them produce joint work that is recorded and monitorable, accountable
29/05/2007 11:29:38	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Gill, yes, as I said to DN earlier this year, I once threw away the sacript I had and extemporsied. The students loved it, in the main. I felt liberated myself. Not something I would have felt confident to do before.
29/05/2007 11:29:38	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	maybe, working together doesn't mean you have to be friends
29/05/2007 11:30:07	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	SD: accountability has cultural connotations that affect obligation?
29/05/2007 11:30:22	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	do you think the virtual learning environment works for everyone, or could the ability to interact virtually be yet another "learning style" in which some will excell but others- - -
29/05/2007 11:30:46	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	maybe it is the level of interactivity which makes learners engaged in collaborative activities?
29/05/2007 11:31:03	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	WN: that's real
29/05/2007 11:31:03	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	WN, the more mature studetns tend to be the ones who dislike it. Not too surprising I suppose.
29/05/2007 11:31:18	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	what's your lurker ratio, Jim?
29/05/2007 11:31:39	Tracey Winning (TraceyWinning)	did all groups participate?



29/05/2007 11:31:46	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	MW, no lurkers on the online scheme. amny more on the general discussion board, of course.
29/05/2007 11:31:53	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	How common is it in campus universities these days for one teacher to be responsible for so large a class? (In the Open University there would be a tutor for every 15-20 students, assessing their written work every 2-3 weeks and interacting with them onl
29/05/2007 11:32:23	radu catalin (karadu)	good point Derek
29/05/2007 11:32:27	Terri Rees (trees)	I have found that some of my international students are less inclined to participate in online activities and I think this may be something to do with the time it might take to sort of translate and participate. Did you notice any differences in participation
29/05/2007 11:32:28	Nigel Lindsey (njlindse)	WN I have informally monitored those who look at VLE material in my modules and not surprisingly the level of interaction is very variable
29/05/2007 11:32:37	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	GillP has there been any work done on --- for want of a better term virtual learning style
29/05/2007 11:32:38	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	TW, yes, or they got close down. I would say about ten groups failed. But then, some of their more active members had already been parachuted into other groups.
29/05/2007 11:33:59	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	What roles will your helpers be playing, Jim, in the 2007-8 run of the course?
29/05/2007 11:34:18	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	WN - I can point to experience with exec adults offline if you want but it does not count as 'research' and I've been looking for solid academic stuff for years.
29/05/2007 11:34:25	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Should clarify, by no lurkers in the online scheme I mean none who survived very long.
29/05/2007 11:34:41	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	derek,
29/05/2007 11:34:56	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	they'll have six groups each. all year.
29/05/2007 11:35:43	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	GillP maybe we could talk about it later - first one on the off line board put up a thread about virtual learning style!
29/05/2007 11:36:02	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	WN, GillP, there is something closely related in web usage mining, but most of it has a clear IT stance
29/05/2007 11:36:16	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	Just googled "virtual learning style" and got 19 million hits!
29/05/2007 11:36:35	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	wow
29/05/2007 11:36:40	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Yes: google has its moments...
29/05/2007 11:36:46	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	with th "--"
29/05/2007 11:37:14	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	and I thought I was being inventive!
29/05/2007 11:37:34	Kenji Lamb (klamb)	Just googled "virtual learning style" (in quotations to get an exact match) and got a massive total of 1 hit.
29/05/2007 11:37:58	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	a three-way googlewhack!
29/05/2007 11:38:14	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	it's the quotes doing the filtering :)



29/05/2007 11:38:27	Terri Rees (trees)	Jim, were there any particular types of students who participated less than others - internationals, males/females, mature/younger students for example?
29/05/2007 11:38:33	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	So will you six helpers each lecture separately to their groups and be responsible for their assessment and online monitoring?
29/05/2007 11:38:49	Robert McGregor (rmcgregor)	I think friendship is generally under-rated and under-recognised as an important factor in achievement. If we look at the reasons for retention/drop out, not "fitting in" seems to form a significant part and that points to having good social net
29/05/2007 11:38:58	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	@klamb, lorenzov : foul, try again.
29/05/2007 11:39:16	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Tre, some of the elective students for sure. Those who didn't intend to proceed with psychology. Rational, from their point of view.
29/05/2007 11:39:40	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Derek they will help with the online work only. No lectures.
29/05/2007 11:40:23	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	RMC: not the same - but can be equivalently valuable and long-term powerful
29/05/2007 11:40:29	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	rmc, the online work takes nothing away from that option, I'd suggest.
29/05/2007 11:41:04	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	Force the learning process through a lecture, + u will favour some. Force a VLE and u favour others. Seems a reasonable hypothesis anyway.
29/05/2007 11:41:32	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	MW, and some won't mind either way, for good or ill.
29/05/2007 11:41:35	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	MW - offer both, increase revenue and please all?
29/05/2007 11:42:02	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	How comfortable are we with the idea that some of our students may be happy to study one way (e.g. collaborative projects) while others feel their learning style is best suited by another (e.g. solitary study)?
29/05/2007 11:42:21	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	just out of curiosity (to demonstrate how detached lecturers/teachers are from their classes) how many of you are aware of groups forming on facebook with your students?
29/05/2007 11:42:28	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	DR: if it is outcomes that matter - who cares what the route?
29/05/2007 11:42:47	Bobby Elliott (bobbyelliott)	i am aware of facebook
29/05/2007 11:42:57	Mark Russell (MarkRussell)	DR Good point - Product vs process again
29/05/2007 11:42:59	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	sense of 'fitting in' goes well beyond the single course/module!
29/05/2007 11:43:07	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Lo, I see lots of mentions of myspace. quite a few exchange addresses for that system.
29/05/2007 11:43:25	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	Derek, part of the objectives are about acclimatiseing students to different, possibly industrially relevant, modes, such as group work.
29/05/2007 11:43:53	Nigel Lindsey (njlindse)	DR Does the same apply to types of assessment. Surely good programmes have a blend of each.
29/05/2007 11:43:54	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Lorenzov: my students would not be 'Facebook' types but the same principle applies in more email connections
29/05/2007 11:44:13	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	I haven't heard that they're any of Jim's objectives though, Matt.
29/05/2007 11:44:22	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	MW, absolutely, and I emphasise that to my class - transferrable skills, what employers want.
29/05/2007 11:44:23	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	DR if it is logistically possible shouldn't a course should be designed to suit as many learning styles as possible?



29/05/2007 11:44:42	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	errr -- what is facebook?
29/05/2007 11:44:55	Terri Rees (trees)	Derek, I think that is absolutely right. My recent assessment review study has shown that students do not like groupwork due to perceptions that others do not do their bit. There was strong consensus on this point
29/05/2007 11:45:01	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	> as many learning styles as possible? ah an unverifiable requirement
29/05/2007 11:45:03	MArk Russell (MarkRussell)	facebook - social networking site
29/05/2007 11:45:11	Kenji Lamb (klamb)	Facebook, MySpace, Bebo - all social networking sites...
29/05/2007 11:45:24	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	I agree with WNichols -- but I also agree with Matt (and Jim). Dilemma time!
29/05/2007 11:45:48	Steve Draper (SteveDraper)	RNC student friendships and "fitting". The research I've seen suggests that making friends is seldom a problem, at least at the richer universities. Having friendships with someone on the same course whom you can work with is a lot more variable. So I
29/05/2007 11:45:52	Bobby Elliott (bobbyelliott)	good students do not like groupwork
29/05/2007 11:46:13	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	DR: back to the old autoroute-with-shopping mall analogy??
29/05/2007 11:46:28	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	mature students don't mind it either
29/05/2007 11:46:44	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	I agree in principle but it's not possible to tailor the delivery of a large class to individual preferences, of course.
29/05/2007 11:46:50	Julie Hall (Julie Hall)	I have heard students say that they don't particularly want their lecturers 'invading' their social network spaces e.g. face book and myspace. However Jim's case study shows that students, many of whom are very confident working with technology can get a
29/05/2007 11:47:06	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	is there an argument for allowing group-working students to give each other a grade (one that counts) on their contribution to the group effort?
29/05/2007 11:47:21	Nigel Lindsey (njlindse)	BE No it depends if they are in a group that they like?
29/05/2007 11:47:29	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	i employ that argument
29/05/2007 11:47:37	Bobby Elliott (bobbyelliott)	we need to be more creative in creative group work marking schemes
29/05/2007 11:47:50	Bobby Elliott (bobbyelliott)	creating
29/05/2007 11:47:50	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	DR; counted grades from peers is fraught with possibility...
29/05/2007 11:47:59	Terri Rees (trees)	yes bobby and they also don't like peer assessment because a) they feel they may not be fairly marked and b) that lecturers are the experts and b) (increasingly with the intro of fees), that that is what we are paid for and they therefore want/expect
29/05/2007 11:48:15	Bobby Elliott (bobbyelliott)	yes
29/05/2007 11:48:15	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Julie, thank you. They are of course guests on MY webspace when using webCT. I make this clear. I mean that slightly jokily when I say that - we're in it together - they don't seem to mind.
29/05/2007 11:48:20	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	i think that jim's light monitoring helped ensure that the old problems of group work - lack of contribution by peers was mitigated - the public nature of it is one benefit of the online
29/05/2007 11:48:22	Nigel Lindsey (njlindse)	DR Yes but it can create as many problems as it solves



29/05/2007 11:48:29	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	there are dozens of viable schemes out there, most of them require a culture to be developed in addition to the mechanics
29/05/2007 11:49:01	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	trees mentioned a good point: 1st year students 'expect to be taught'... old way hard to change in their minds...
29/05/2007 11:49:04	Colin Mason (cactuscolin)	Hi sorry Im late
29/05/2007 11:49:04	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	MW: agree
29/05/2007 11:49:07	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	MR thanks! re facebook
29/05/2007 11:49:17	Madan Gupta (mgupta)	DR, My experience with group work is that students are quite honest in assessing their peers.
29/05/2007 11:49:28	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Lo,
29/05/2007 11:49:44	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	OTOH, if the "game" has flaws in it, they will be exploited.
29/05/2007 11:49:51	MARk Russell (MarkRussell)	Another discussion this morning focused on peer assessment and the value it brings. But for me it is only the students that can really make the judgement about the performance of each group members contribution. Not only to the product but also the contri
29/05/2007 11:49:52	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	I talk them most of them out of that attitude fairly promptly.
29/05/2007 11:50:44	MARk Russell (MarkRussell)	It is the students, not the teachers that are inside the group!
29/05/2007 11:50:55	Terri Rees (trees)	I agree with that Mark, but still they think that their fees mean we should be doing the majority of the assessing
29/05/2007 11:51:00	Colin Mason (cactuscolin)	Our staff face the usual suspicions on freeloaders, unfair peer assessment of contribution too - anyone tried asking students to audio or video tape their formal scheduled meetings at least?
29/05/2007 11:51:01	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	I agree with Mark. Assessing colleagues' contribution is one area of assessment in which the student's viewpoint can be more valid than the teacher's.
29/05/2007 11:51:04	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	yes, but i guess that they will compare your course with the other 5-6 'traditional' courses they take in the same year
29/05/2007 11:51:09	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Mgupta: mine the same as long as there is cultural cohesion or balancing effect for fears/tensions
29/05/2007 11:51:53	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	any staff tried attending student group meeting?
29/05/2007 11:51:58	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Should have been 'there'. this medium is tough for bad typists!
29/05/2007 11:52:13	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	gd 4 bad typist tho
29/05/2007 11:52:14	Colin Mason (cactuscolin)	spelling and typing - both overrated
29/05/2007 11:52:19	Terri Rees (trees)	Very true Gill
29/05/2007 11:52:30	Nigel Lindsey (njlindse)	Ca. I require a level 3 group to submit minutes of their meeting with action plans to help ensure participation
29/05/2007 11:52:34	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	It's the brain it's tough on!
29/05/2007 11:52:42	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	they obviously have to do the work, however it is my experience that the concept of 'active student' is a myth especially with elective courses...
29/05/2007 11:53:01	Matt Whyndham (MattWhyndham)	@derek, u shld try second life - that IS mad



29/05/2007 11:53:02	Colin Mason (cactuscolin)	ok - minutes a good start but - not full picture usually
29/05/2007 11:53:06	Terri Rees (trees)	Especially if you are the presenter Derek!
29/05/2007 11:53:26	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Lo, I'd like to lose the whole elective idea. I may have to move to England, however...
29/05/2007 11:53:35	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	Jim, have any of your colleagues teaching the other four courses expressed any interest in following your lead?
29/05/2007 11:53:40	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	if it doesn't count for their marks it is difficult to motivate them to do anything!
29/05/2007 11:53:50	Bobby Elliott (bobbyelliott)	yes
29/05/2007 11:53:56	Steve Draper (SteveDraper)	I think some of you are missing that on offline courses, there is no record of student participation apart from peer's memoreis; but in Jim's course their only interactions are online and totally recorded
29/05/2007 11:54:24	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Derek, there are plans to do something like it in second and third years. 4th year under discussion.
29/05/2007 11:54:32	Bobby Elliott (bobbyelliott)	we sometimes have different standards for online and offline work!
29/05/2007 11:54:37	Colin Mason (cactuscolin)	sure Steve - but what about offline?
29/05/2007 11:54:49	Kenji Lamb (klamb)	To Steve: how do you know their only interactions are online?
29/05/2007 11:54:51	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Bobby: eeeek!
29/05/2007 11:55:11	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	i think jims course contradicts the idea that students only work for marks - their contribution was beyond expectation but they were only required to participate and level was not assessed
29/05/2007 11:55:22	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	Steve, therefore rather than the surveys it would be essential to research the 'online activity'
29/05/2007 11:55:33	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	Students can also be motivated by anxiety.
29/05/2007 11:55:43	Steve Draper (SteveDraper)	Jim mentioned that many groups would sign off at the end of the year, saying things like great working with you and I wonder if we'll ever meet
29/05/2007 11:55:46	Bobby Elliott (bobbyelliott)	anxiety to pass exams!
29/05/2007 11:55:58	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	anxiety to pass muster.
29/05/2007 11:56:00	radu catalin (karadu)	students only work for marks
29/05/2007 11:56:04	lorenzo vigentini (lorenzov)	David, that's why i found it extremely interesting and wonder if it would work anywhere lese
29/05/2007 11:56:13	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	DR: motivated or rabbit-in-headlight
29/05/2007 11:56:29	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	yes but that could apply in any context - this coursen would have to have made the anxiety more acute
29/05/2007 11:56:37	Janice Whatley (janwhatley)	There is an element of novelty value at present, but will this be there in the future?
29/05/2007 11:56:46	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	Well they certainly reported some stress.
29/05/2007 11:56:53	Julie Hall (Julie Hall)	I agree with David and this has also been my expereince with on line but only when the lecturer as moderator is clearly 'there' and responds to their comments.
29/05/2007 11:57:14	Wafa-Makky Nichols (WNichols)	what did they find stressful about it in particular?



29/05/2007 11:57:22	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	There;'s nothjing wrong with the Hawthorne effect -- keep it coming!
29/05/2007 11:57:25	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	lorenzov - jim's course is not an isloated example - there are others in reap
29/05/2007 11:57:35	Jim Baxter (Jim Baxter)	Derek, they did. I'll post a thread on their final rections - just a few respnses - on the 'satic' forum later.
29/05/2007 11:58:06	David Nicol (DavidNicol)	derek, you are right - i think stress was related to the workload
29/05/2007 11:58:17	Bobby Elliott (bobbyelliott)	young students generally dont engage unless it "counts"
29/05/2007 11:58:29	Derek Rowntree (DerekRowntree)	This is soo frantic! Don't forget we can carry on talking, but more leisurely, on the discussion board for this case study.
29/05/2007 11:58:29	Gillian Palmer (GillP)	Let's keep this whole thing going. We are running out of time and will soon be shut down but it's good and thanks to all

- TRANSCRIPT ENDS -

We apologise that owing to the limit on storage of individual messages within the chat software, particularly long messages have been truncated. Unfortunately, we are not able to recover these.

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