CASE STUDY: Producing Interactive, Online Class Previews

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Using Interactive, Narrated PowerPoint Presentations for Asynchronous Learning and Review

Case study
Interactive online modules are used as class"previews" in a web-enhanced course

The context
St. Charles Community College (SCC)
Diversity of ages, academic preparation, study skills, challenges
Anatomy & Physiology course
“Lecture" portion of a lab-lecture format
Two-semester sequence
Dense course content
48 students per lecture section

The Problem
Too much material to cover in lectures
Over 2,000 new terms
Hundreds of concepts
Numerous connections to make between structures and functions of the body
No time to practice application of concepts
Class size too large
Inclusive discussions difficult and time-consuming
Lectures not very interactive
Feedback from students difficult to assess

The Solution
Adapt just in time teaching (JiTT) strategies to focus content of lecture mainly on the concepts that are more difficult to master

The Solution
Assess students electronically
Analyze past performance on online tests
Use student response systems in class (clickers)
Make learning activities available to students well before lectures
Textbook
Online learning outlines
Online preview presentations
Use classroom time to focus on difficult concepts and solve problems with learning and applying concepts

Online preview presentations
“Easy" material viewed online prior to lecture
Stuff they *should* already know
Introductory material
Straightforward tours of anatomy
Leaves “hard” material for the lecture
Preview material is assessed during lectures by using clickers

Another option for this course is to provide brief, narrated slide shows of introductory material on the LMS.

Do you think this option would work well for you?

**How to**
PowerPoint’s built-in audio narration & timing
Screeencasting
Various PowerPoint add-ins

**iSpring Presenter**
Third-party software
PowerPoint plug-in
- Located in its own tab
- Adds narration and timing to presentation
- Animations, hyperlinks intact
- Can add quizzes (SCORM compliant) and outlines
- Publishes finished production as a Flash or HTML5 that automatically plays in its own player
  - Files can be on hard media or online
  - Compact file; starts playing while later slides load

**How to**
Create a PowerPoint presentation
Give the presentation
- Use the iSpring plug-in to “record”
- Use a microphone to narrate (or webcam for video)
- Use animations, slide transitions as you would in a classroom
Publish the presentation
- iSpring plugin does this
  - You COULD tweak it first
    - Add quizzes
    - Add outline
    - Allow branching
    - Much more!
Quizzes

Quiz grades CAN be automatically entered into your LMS grade book
  I don’t do that
    They are “self review” questions with no fear of penalty
    I want them to go back over the previous section if they don’t get the quiz
  The questions can be very sophisticated
    I just quiz simple comprehension at this point
    Complex assessment is at a later stage in the course

What I like about iSpring

  Easy to use
    I can easily edit previous presentations
  Plays well with others . . . easy integration
    PowerPoint
    Any LMS or course website
    Works on mobile devices
  Easy to add quizzes, navigation to presentations
  Easy to provide audio-only podcasts to students

What I need to invest

  Money
    Cost of software (iSpring, PowerPoint)
  Time
    Producing PowerPoints
    Producing iSpring presentation
      Narrate
      Add quizzes
      Organize
    Publish (and copy to server)

Would you rather read the “preview” material in the textbook instead of watching them online?

What I like about using online previews

  I can focus more time on the specific needs of students
  I don’t feel as pressured to “get it all in” my classroom time
    I can use time for active learning instead of all lecture
  More interaction within class
  Students are better prepared for class
  Student attitudes and performance are better

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