The Tools and Resources that Drive Collaboration

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- Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Cross-listed Course: ENV4101 & ENV5105
  - ✓ Elements of Air Pollution
  - ✓ Air Quality Management
- Class Size: 18 students registered, 3 dropped
  - ✓ 13 undergraduate-level students
  - ✓ 5 graduate-level students
Assignment Objective

Provide students with the opportunity of conducting collaborative learning by analyzing one or more manuscripts from the peer-reviewed literature under one theme, or a peer-reviewed case study of their choice.
Assignment Description

- Step 1: Students were asked to form groups comprising 2 to 4 members
- Step 2: Groups were asked to select a “theme” from a proposed list of 8 themes
- Step 3: Groups were asked to submit a peer-reviewed case study or three manuscripts related to the theme of their choice
- Step 4: Groups were provided with guidelines based on the research material chosen, in order to conduct a focused analysis of the information*

* specific-to-general learning: starting off from a case-scenario, a solved problem or the analysis of the specific issue presented in a contemporary peer-reviewed literature article, students are guided to find the connections to the course’s material and the generalized patterns based on the self-motivation/interest component in choosing the reading manuscripts and/or topic.
Students utilize the private meeting room to share ideas, information, and collaborate on projects or presentations. This also provides students with unique options for presenting projects since students have the option to record and edit any of their meetings.

The “framework” is an easy to understand flowchart that illustrates the possible options to create and facilitate interaction (instructor-students, students-students) in the virtual world, for each teaching style situation.

Comment: It is unfortunate that this schematic became available after I taught my course.

Use of the FIU Online framework for “Student Collaboration”
Group Collaboration Tutorial

Adobe Connect

Instructions

The Adobe Connect is an online meeting room in which you can interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens or files, chat, broadcast live audio, and take part in other interactive online activities.

Requirements for using Adobe Connect Pro Meeting:
1. Disable any window pop-up blocker.
2. Adobe Flash Player 9 or higher
3. You can test your computer to make sure that you are set up with all of the tools you will need to participate in the meeting.

Please click here for additional information on Adobe Connect (Tutorials & Help).

Adobe Connect - Group Collaboration Tutorial

Please view the Adobe Connect - Group Collaboration Tutorial before using Adobe Connect for the first time.

More Information on Adobe Connect

Please click here and click on “Adobe Connect” to find out more information on Adobe Connect.

Viewing Meeting Recordings

Click the ‘show/hide text’ button below to view this text. This information will show you how to view meeting recordings.

Click here to access your Adobe Connect Meetings

This link will take you to the Adobe Connect Tool where your meeting(s) will be available.
Adobe Connect Group Rooms
Blackboard Group Areas: Customizations & File Exchange

2 Groups decided to “customize” their work-space

The “file exchange” worked remarkably well for all the groups
Collaboration Tools: What worked? Group Blogs

Group “Blogs” were more effective than “Discussion Board”

✓ Instructor-led blogs, vs.
✓ Student-led blogs
Collaboration Tools:
What didn’t work so well?

“Discussion Board” was a bit chaotic
Collaboration is an important component of high quality education. Instructors engaged in on-line teaching should foster among students the use of the virtual connecting tools available.

Video-conferencing has rapidly become a typical mean of communication in the professional and business interaction; exposing our University students to these tools (giving them the opportunity to understand these tools) would be greatly beneficial to their preparation to enter the present and future workforce.

Virtual Collaboration Tools
Laura McDermott, MFA

- Department of Public Administration
- Course: PAD3438
  - ✓ Communication Skills for Policy and Management
  - ✓ undergraduate-level course
- Class Size: 35 students registered
  - ✓ Groups: 5 time-slots, 7 members each

Group collaboration tools were essential in facilitating the “communication skills” of this course! Interaction was important for the goals, objectives, and content of the course. Adobe Connect enables me to teach these concepts in an online environment.
Assignment Objective

Extra Credit Assignment:

Provide students with the opportunity of conducting collaborative learning by meeting with the instructor for real-time instruction regarding upcoming assignments.
Assignment Description

- Step 1: Students enter the group meeting at a designated time.
- Step 2: Instruction is given to the student regarding upcoming assignments.
- Step 3: Students ask questions in order to gain further knowledge.
Assignment Objective

Presentation Assignment:
Provide students with the opportunity of conducting presentations in a collaborative learning environment.
Assignment Description

• Step 1: Students register for a time-slot that best fits their personal schedules.
• Step 2: Each student independently presents his or her presentation to the other students signed up for that time slot.
• Step 3: Students ask questions in order to gain further knowledge about the presenter’s information.
• Step 4: The next presenter then presents.
Utilized for general lectures and assignment reviews.

Utilized for all students to practice Adobe Connect and all its features within the “Practice Presentation Room”.

Used for individual student presentations. Fellow classmates were present to serve as a live audience. Presentations were recorded for professor’s and students’ to review.

Use of the FIU Online framework for “Student Collaboration”
Collaborative Learning Environment

Meeting Room Pods: PDF Sharing, File Share, Web Links, and Whiteboard

Other features not shown: Chat, Video, Notes, Desktop Share
Adobe Connect Time-Slots

✓ Comment: Finding presentation meeting times that were convenient for all students and myself was a challenge.
✓ Recordings proved to be a great solution and remedy for instances when someone wasn’t able to attend live presentations.
Adobe Connect enables students:
✓ to provide an effective visual aid,
✓ to handle questions to and from the audience,
✓ to draw the audience to a logical conclusion from their presentation.

Virtual Collaboration Tools
Student Feedback

- **We asked students:**

  - What kind of an impact did Adobe Connect have on group work or assignments?
  - How was Adobe Connect used in your group? What was the most important feature utilized?
  - Could students have been as successful within their groups without the use of Adobe Connect?
To learn more visit:
http://online.fiu.edu/faculty/tools/adobeconnect

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