

Online teaching: introduction to the collection

(Collection 7 of 7)

Overview

"It can sometimes be disheartening on a module when you study a different strand/text each week but ultimately only write on two or three of them. It can be easy when you are busy to neglect the ones you don't intend to write on and this detracts from the point of studying. The VLE discussion activities defeated this problem. I am personally very glad that I could engage with all the texts on the course via the VLE."

(Year 3 Student - Victorian Vision Online Module - University of Wolverhampton)

The object of this group of activities is to both familiarise the student with examples of the range of possibilities for using e-learning in the teaching of English, to encourage thinking about the design, delivery and assessment of online learning and to encourage students to experiment for themselves. Over the last twenty years Higher Education has undergone great change and the learners entering university today bring with them a whole host of new expectations. E-learning can offer a wealth of opportunities to reach out to learners of all types in all places with fresh perspectives on subjects. It also offers access to primary materials one could only dream about in the recent past, whether an archive of illuminated manuscripts, variants of Shakespeare's quartos compared side by side...or multimedia digital stories with crowdsourced plotlines....the list is endless.

There is now a substantial body of research and practical case studies of how technology has been used in English contexts (e.g. see links in the overview for this theme and within each activity). In the last few years the technical infrastructure underlying the VLE and e-learning tools in general have been bolstered in many institutions and opportunities for staff development are available throughout the year. Indeed one often finds that knowing where to find the kind of support that is available and 'marshalling' all



1 | *This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.*

This work by English Subject Centre is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales License.

the key players who are willing to assist practitioners in developing their courses (e.g. subject librarians, the media department, the e-learning unit) can result in a better understanding by course teams and individual lecturers of what is really possible.

In this unit there are activities which look at why you might want to use a Virtual Learning Environment and what the tools included in it might be useful for. Aspects of the process of building engaging online content are also explored and you will have the opportunity to listen to and read articles by academics who are enjoying the fruits of their investment of time and energy in developing online materials and courses.

Whilst the resources in this area do not offer a comprehensive survey of e-learning in Literature, Language and Creative Writing, they do provide a useful starting point for thinking about the application of technology in the pedagogy of the disciplines.

Two introductory videos

The way we learn is changing in our increasingly digital society. This 5 minute video from the Australian Centre for Learning and Teaching, provides a useful overview of some of the reasons why we as educators need to take notice.



2 | This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.

This work by English Subject Centre is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales License.

In this second video the power of social media in society today is introduced.



Links & References

There is a large amount of resources available on this subject on the web. Here is a selection of those that might be most useful in the first instance.

- Miles, R. ,Colbert, B., Wilson, F. et al (2010) *Online Discussion in English Studies: A Good Practice Guide to Design, Moderation and Assessment* . HEA English Subject Centre Report Series, No. 21. ISBN: 978-1-905846-40-5.
- Hanrahan, M., Madsen, D. (2006) *Teaching, Technology, Textuality: Approaches to New Media*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Laurillard, D. (2002) *Rethinking University Teaching* (2nd ed.) London: Routledge Falmer
- Gilly Salmon (2000) *E-moderating: The Key to Teaching and Learning Online*. Kogan Page.
- Gilly Salmon (2002) *E-tivities: The Key to Active Online Learning*. Kogan Page.
- UCISA (The University and Colleges Information Systems Association) Reports- available from their website [<http://www.ucisa.ac.uk/publications.aspx>]
- Browse the extensive resources available on the JISC e-learning website including:
 - [Effective Practice in a Digital Age](#) [June 2009]
 - [Effective Assessment in a Digital Age](#) [September 2010]



3 | This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.

This work by English Subject Centre is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales License.

- [Higher Education in a Web 2.0 World](#) [May 2009]
- Online learning e-books including:
 - [The Theory and Practice of Online Learning - Second Edition](#). Edited by Terry Anderson. Athabasca University Press. [2008]

Professional Standards Framework

The activities in the online teaching section align with Core knowledge 2 (appropriate methods for teaching and learning in the subject area and at the level of the academic programme) and Core knowledge 4 (the use of appropriate learning technologies. Some activities align with Professional values 3 (commitment to the development of learning communities).

Individual & Group Activities

Some of the activities in this collection (the same is true of the other themed collections) are designed for individual use. Some are designed for use in groups (for example within the framework of a certificate course). In many cases the resource could be easily adapted for either. But where there is a marked difference we have indicated that a resource is primarily inflected towards either individual or group use.

Resources in the Online teaching Collection

- **Online teaching: introduction to the collection**
- What are VLE's good for?: resource overview
 - What is a VLE and why use it?: group activity
 - What is a VLE and why use it?: individual activity
- The design of online activities in English Studies: resource overview
 - Evaluating online activities in English Studies: group activity
 - Evaluating online activities in English Studies: individual activity
- Designing learning with new media: resource overview
 - Exploring new media and its potential in teaching: group activity
 - Exploring new media and its potential in teaching: individual activity
 - Designing an online activity in English Studies: group activity



4 | *This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.*

This work by English Subject Centre is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales License.

- Designing an online activity in English Studies: individual activity
- Teaching with digital archives: resource overview
 - Teaching with digital archives: group activity
 - Teaching with digital archives: individual activity
- Online discussion in English Studies: resource overview
 - Should online discussion be assessed?: group activity
 - Should online discussion be assessed?: individual activity
- Workshopping online: resource overview
 - Designing an online Creative Writing workshop: group activity
 - Designing an online Creative Writing workshop: individual activity



5 | *This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.*

This work by English Subject Centre is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales License.