

Jiri Stelzer | jstelzer@valdosta.edu

Valdosta State University
Valdosta, Georgia, USA

Karel Fromer | fromel@ftknw.upol.cz

Jana Grygarova | J.Grygarova@seznam.cz

Palacky University
Olomouc, Czech Republic

Teaching and Learning Through WebCT and IP-Video

WebCT courses bring together students from Valdosta State University (Georgia, USA), Palacky University (Czech Republic), and Abant Izzet Baysaal University (Turkey). Students enrolled in courses in the Kinesiology and Physical Education program access content and communicate through WebCT, and participate in discussions and projects via IP-video. Research by the collaborating universities shows online participatory experiences help students to understand cultural differences in health sciences and to think critically about racism, classism, sexism, ageism, and xenophobia.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate a working course model for collaborative international distance learning programs.
2. Demonstrate hybrid course format combining WebCT and IP videoconferencing
3. Disseminate findings on increasing cultural awareness via distance learning

Outcomes:

1. Understanding of opportunities for enhancing courses and international programs via WebCT.
2. Diffusion of methods for combining WebCT and IP videoconferencing technologies to enhance distance learning courses.
3. Promote a dialog on technology-mediated cultural exchange in higher education

Abstract: (300 words)

In the Fall of 2004, the colleagues from Valdosta State University and colleagues in Europe initiated the development of an innovative distance learning program combining students from Valdosta State University (Valdosta, Georgia) and Palacky University (Czech Republic) in WebCT courses in the Kinesiology and Physical Education department. In the second year of the program another European institution joined the collaboration, Abant Izzet Baysaal University (Turkey). A new online course was developed to provide students with the opportunity to understand cultural differences in health sciences, and to help them think critically about institutional racism, classism, sexism, ageism, and xenophobia.

The WebCT courses serve as a working model for technology-mediated courses in international exchange programs. The course format combines content delivery and interaction via WebCT Vista, streaming video, and IP videoconferencing to make real time, video/audio connections between the three campus sites. Through this combination of advanced learning technologies, students access course content, participate in class discussions or work together on small group projects, and communicate via online discussion forums, email, and videoconferencing. In this hybrid

SoTL Commons Conference November 1-2, 2007
Georgia Southern University
Statesboro, GA

course environment, the faculty form a multi-national instructional team. WebCT provides a framework that facilitates the collaboration on the instructional design and the course delivery.

In addition to demonstrating a successful blending of WebCT and video technologies, the program has provided an innovative forum for research on the synthesis of international exchange programs and distance learning.