Practical Experience with Avatars, Blended Learning, and Representation

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Abstract

In a class meeting face-to-face and online at the same time, teacher and students collaborated to make it work. Learn from the professor and students about how they overcame problems and worked through strategies to make sure that all students, sitting in the classroom or on the screen, equally felt that they were part of the class. You will see their techniques demonstrated, and hear the lessons learned.
Students, GAs

Wednesday, June 16, 2010
The need: Access

- Distance
- Professional, family obligations
- Health issues
LEEP Weekend

Wednesday, June 16, 2010
Beyond the access need
(1. one program)
2. Organic development: Instructors

- More diverse pool of people & situations
- Teaching while traveling
- Learning pedagogy
3. Hybrid model: Diversity as a pedagogical resource

- Communities: Barrio of East LA, Tlingit community in Alaska
- Backgrounds of students
- Professional settings
4. Match to workplace & life: Communication & collaboration

- Professions increasingly defined in terms of information & communication technologies
- Building on student experiences
5. Community of practice

- Students learning from one another
- Connection to
  - alums
  - professionals
  - community
  - other courses
6. Tech support for all teaching

- Session archive
- Audio/video displays
- Online interaction, e.g., whiteboard
7. Research, reflection

- Learning & re-learning technologies
- Technology breaks
- Need to re-think pedagogy
- Extra planning; can’t “wing-it”
- Reduced personal connection?
Why LEEP works

1. One program
2. Organic development
3. Hybrid model
4. Communication & collaboration
5. Community of practice
6. Tech support
7. Research & reflection
Inquiry-based learning class

- Student from Québec, on campus 3 wks
- Student traveling to Malawi, away 3 wks
- Student in Illinois who’s physically present every other week
- Student with health or family problems
- Archive of sessions for all
Inquiry-based learning class

- On campus, face-to-face sessions
- Synchronous remote (Elluminate)
- Asynchronous discussion forums, calendar, blogs, assignments (Moodle, Wordpress)
- LEEP weekend
Modes of participation

- LEEP participant full-time: synchronous + asynchronous
- LEEP participant half-time: asynchronous only
- On campus participant
Group work

- Separate discussion forums
- In and out of class group meetings involving both on campus and remote participants
- Use of websites, Community Inquiry Labs, blogs
Avatars

~ Usually means an online version of a person
~ Here, an in-person representation of someone present only online
Blended learning

- online, mobile, face-to-face media
- varying pedagogical approaches
- mix of theoretical with practical work
Disappearance of technology


not online learning or blended learning or hybrid learning or technology enhanced learning => simply... learning
Questions?
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