Poster: Enhancing the Student Experience: Canvas, Tegrity, and eTexts

UW-IT is providing three technologies that help students and instructors manage course content, communicate regularly, review course content, and access course materials online.

The Canvas learning management system improves student-to-student and student-to-instructor communication via assignment submission, online testing, efficient grading, instant messaging, and video chat. Canvas was first used on UW campuses in 24 courses in Autumn Quarter 2011. In Winter Quarter 2012, Canvas was used in 64 courses. The poster presents some of the ways that students and instructors have been using Canvas, such as using it to hold virtual office hours.

Tegrity, a video and screen-capture service, allows students to post and share content, and to review lectures anywhere they can connect to the Internet. Some of its benefits include (1) the opportunity to review complex topics at one’s own pace; (2) the ability to focus on the lecture in class and take notes later while reviewing the lecture via Tegrity. After the snow days during January 2012, several instructors used Tegrity to disseminate lectures and make up for lost time caused by the extended campus closure.

eText, online text delivery, has the potential to improve learning and enhance student engagement, all at a lower cost than traditional textbooks (approximately 35%). The eTexts pilot project features two systems, one focusing on annotation and collaboration, the other on compatibility and accessibility. Both provide easily searchable electronic texts that have close fidelity to a printed page.