Virtual Classroom

What is it?
UQ’s virtual classroom is a web conferencing tool that enables a group of people to work in real-time, online. The virtual classroom provides the ability to interact and collaborate in real time with other participants in the course using voice, text chat, shared desktops, whiteboards and cameras while being physically separated.

What could you do?
- Large group discussions
- Small group activities (in break out rooms)
- Practical demonstrations (of software/tools/procedures)
- Peer presentations
- Collaborative drawing
- Eliciting audience responses/comments
- Responding to polls/short surveys (clickers style)
- Delivering lecture content
- Showing multimedia (YouTube videos/audio clips)
- Playing games/simulations
- RHD student supervision/practicum supervision
- Record live sessions or create pre-recorded mini lectures.

Tips
- Plan, prepare and get help (if you can) – while many of these activities are similar to face-to-face activities there is an additional overhead challenge of running the technology as well.
- Plan to engage students, while the virtual classroom is like a real classroom it is easier for students to feel disconnected, consider activities (Polls, Q&A, small group breakouts, brainstorming ideas using a whiteboard or note. Discussion questions.) to keep students active.
- For a meeting of more than 50 people you may need to book a virtual seminar room via the ITS helpdesk.

What have people done?
Peer presentations:
- Have students provide their PowerPoint slides
- Use the stage lights pod to keep time.
- Use to-do list for an outline or to show the marking criteria.

Make them more interesting by:
- Use multiple polls on one layout, one poll for each marking criteria and have peers assess the presentation in real time.
- Use star rating to rate each presenter (overall rating).
- Text chat or notes pods can be used to give text comments.
- Comments can be given via the chat too.

TEDI Educational Technologies
UQ systems technical support elearning.uq.edu.au
Workshops for elearning tools and teaching with technology uq.edu.au/staffdevelopment
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