

Using podcast to recap concepts in Law course

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From: Faculty of Law

Year Starting: 2009

Introduction of the learning activity

The teacher of SLW9620 (Principles of Land Law) adopted podcasting as a way to distribute learning resources for revision and review after class. The teacher participated in the CUHK podcast programme by making both visual and audio learning resources for students to subscribe to in September 2009. This initial podcast series was added to in 2010. Some podcasts were pure audio files while others embedded audio commentary in powerpoint slides. There was also a 5 minute podcast to introduce the course. There were three types of podcast. In the first type, he gave a 10-15 minutes summary of each lecture in order to help his students to get the main idea of the lecture in a short time. The second type consisted of full lectures for each week (sometimes broken into smaller segments). The third type was a collection of answers to problems or questions discussed in class which attempted to help students' revision for the examination.

Advantages of this learning activity

He thought part-time students who could not attend classes, and those who struggled with English would take advantage of the system to recap concepts. Besides, he believed podcasts had helped students to prepare for class or to review classroom discussion.

Feedback from teachers and students about this learning activity

A group of students who took this course and had experience of using the podcasts were interviewed in a focus group meeting. Students were in general positive about the benefits. Students remarked that podcasting materials were good previews of the forthcoming lectures as well as good summaries of the previous one for revision. They also commented that the length of the lecture summary (10-15 minutes) was suitable; a recording of a live lecture would be too long. The podcasts based on discussions in tutorial classes were highly appreciated by students. In addition, some mainland students commented that the podcasts were especially useful as a tool to help them deal with the added problem of the use of English in their studies. They could listen to the podcast several times over until they understood the concepts.