Magic with Moodle

An all-School community page

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Community Page (Economics) (UK)
Background

- The School wanted to have a single place for information for all students
- Used to have information in the Portal
- Some Schools have similar information in Workspace
What did you do?

Created a module in Moodle that is a one-stop shop for all of our course information, including:

- timetable links,
- exam office links,
- whole-school presentations
- news and announcements
- past exam papers & feedback for every module for the past three years (as Moodle Books)
What did you do?

Created a module in Moodle that is a one-stop shop for all of our course information, including

- Term dates (a popular question in the office)
- Learning Community Forum (all of which it is planned to fully move from Workspace to Moodle in the near future)
- RSS feeds from School's website

A perpetual module (carries over from one year to the next)
How it worked

• Students find it easy to find the past exam papers and feedback for every single module, for the last three years (as Moodle Books)
• Easy to edit and staff can see what’s missing and arrange to add it
• Can add answers to frequently asked questions to the page so it continues to become more useful as time goes on
How it was received by students

• One place to look for everything – students prefer that this is Moodle.
• The module is linked to core modules in each year so that students automatically have access to it
• Self-enrolment can also be made available
Economics Student Handbooks & Other Policy Documents

Handbooks:
Undergraduate Student Handbook [pdf file]
Diploma in Economics Student Handbook [pdf file]
Masters Student Handbook [pdf file]
Postgraduate Research Student Handbook [pdf file]

Key Presentations:
Year 3 Week One Presentation 2012/13 [ppt file]
Module information Sessions: Yr 2 going into Yr 3 in Sept 2013 [ppt] (devtrade presentation)
                                           Yr 1 going into Yr 2 in Sept 2013 [ppt]

Other Important Policies & Documents:
School Tutoring Statement [pdf file]
Past Exam Papers and Feedback Policy

Feedback: oral or written developmental advice from staff on student performance – is valuable for giving students a better understanding of subject material, academic standards, marking criteria etc. It is useful in gauging strengths and weaknesses, as well as identifying areas for improvement. The School provides feedback on students’ work by a variety of means, including:

- The opportunity to ask questions in lectures and after lectures
- The opportunity to ask questions, discuss ideas and receive feedback from tutors in tutorials
- The opportunity to discuss ideas with lecturers/tutors during office hours
- Written comments on assignments submitted to tutors, provided on essay feedback forms
- Written feedback on assessed work, provided on seminar and essay feedback forms
- Generic module feedback reports including commentary on each exam question, available below
- Breakdown of individual exam marks question-by-question, available below
- The opportunity to discuss exam performance with module convenors if students have failed the module or received a mark that is out of line (see Requesting Individual Module Feedback below)

Undergraduate Students: see section 6 of the Student Handbook for further details on feedback.

Past Exam Papers and Module Feedback Reports

Requesting Individual Module Feedback
All students who take an Economics module may request individual feedback on specific exams if they have failed a module or their marks on a module were significantly out of line with those on other modules (more than 10% points below their semester average). View procedure and download request form here.

Grading Guidelines for Students
The process and style of grading work at university is often very different to that which you might have experienced at school or college. To try to provide an indication of how the system works in the School of Economics, a series of criteria has been devised against which your work can be judged and graded, and against which you can measure your progress and understanding of material.

Statistical Tables
A scanned PDF file of the statistical tables you will be provided with for examinations with quantitative econometric content.
Credit Value of the Economics Undergraduate Dissertation (and Econometrics Project).

Have Your Say!

The School is considering a proposal to increase the credit weighting of the third year Dissertation (and the Econometrics Project alternative) from 15 to 30. This survey is to poll students to find out the balance of opinion on the proposal.

The proposal follows feedback from students in the previous two years who expressed the view, via the School Review and the National Student Survey, that the Dissertation was too much work for 15 credits. A counter-argument made, for example, by the current School Education Rep, is that some students would not welcome making the Dissertation count for a quarter of their final year marks (100 out of 120 credits). Each credit is intended to correspond to 10 hours work a week; so essentially the proposal is that the Dissertation should be commensurate with 300 hours of work rather than the current 150. It is not intended to increase the word count (from the current 7500 for the Dissertation and 6000 for the Econometrics Project). Note that this proposal could only be implemented from 2013/14; that is to say, it would not affect current finalists but would apply to those currently in Year One and Year Two.

Before the Staff meeting which will vote on this proposal, the School would like to gauge the general opinion of students. The outcome of this poll will not necessarily be binding on the School but is likely to be very influential as the proposal is predicated on it being something that students want. Please give us your opinion by 14th December.

Key Dates

Terms

- Autumn Term: Monday 24 September 2012 - Friday 14 December 2012
- Spring Term: Monday 14 January 2013 - Friday 22 March 2013
- Summer Term: Monday 22 April 2013 - Friday 21 June 2013

Semesters

- Autumn Semester: Monday 24 September 2012 - Saturday 26 January 2013
- Spring Semester: Monday 28 January 2013 - Friday 21 June 2013

Examinations

- Autumn semester
  Monday 14 January 2013 to Saturday 26 January 2013 — including Saturday 19 January 2013
- Spring semester
  Monday 20 May 2013 to Friday 07 June 2013 — including Saturdays 25 May and 01 June 2013
- Late summer rests — provisional only
  Monday 19 August 2013 to Wednesday 28 August 2013 — excluding Saturday 24 August 2013

Key dates for 2013/14 [http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/about/keydates/dates1314.aspx]

Provisional Registration Details for September 2013

for all new and returning undergraduate students.
Contacts

Members of staff in the School: View individual staff webpages for contact information and research interests and activities.

Office Hours for Teaching Staff: View pdf document here.

Who is my subject tutor? View Semester One Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) and the modules they are tutoring on (pdf).

Transfers and Suspensions

Course Transfers
It may be possible for students to switch to another degree programme offered by the School. Students must read the University's policy on Changes of Taught Courses and then complete a Course Transfer Request form. All forms must be submitted to the School Office for consideration/approval.

Course Suspensions
Students wishing to suspend their studies must read the University's Suspension Policy and complete a Suspension Request Form. All forms must be submitted to the School Office for consideration/approval.

Courses & Modules in the School of Economics

A full list of courses and modules available in the School of Economics can be found on the School's website.

Direct links:
School of Economics Undergraduate Courses and Modules
School of Economics Postgraduate Courses and Modules
Direct link to the University's Module Catalogue
Course programme specifications can be viewed here (students must know their course code to view these specifications).
Further information

More information:

• Video of Charlene Hill talking about this: https://workspace.nottingham.ac.uk/display/Moodlehelp/Magic+with+Moodle+-+An+all-School+community+page

• She may be able to give you temporary access to have a look at the module if asked nicely!
Learning Team Support

learning-team-support@nottingham.ac.uk


Moodle Help: bit.ly/uonmoodlehelp

(or search Workspace for “Moodle help”)