

1. Write a short summary of your completed project. Describe project activities, assessment, outcomes, and recommendations. (Submit within two weeks of project completion)

The English 163 course integrated into a learning community with English 151B and CNET 101 was indeed a learning experience for both students and instructors. My English 163 course utilized some major computer skills to teach techniques of college reading. Students used websites integrated with the textbook, WebCT, and web-based lab programs to complete the course. The skills learned in the CNET course were used by students in the reading course to navigate websites, conduct research, and create an integrated project. The final integrated project was small group Critical Thinking topic/issue research and PowerPoint presentations. The PowerPoint skills acquired in the CNET course was used to create the Critical Reading and Thinking presentation in the reading course and the presentations were uploaded to the students' portfolio websites created in the CNET course. The students were assessed on the quality of the electronic research, the quality of the PowerPoint presentation and creation, and group contribution. Here is a link of the website with student work from the three integrated courses:

<http://www.cs.ohlone.edu/HiTechHiJinks/>

In addition, I utilized the myspace social networking website (<http://www.myspace.com>) to connect my students beyond the classroom. The calendar and Instant Messaging feature on myspace were utilized to keep students informed of deadlines and maintain constant communication.

2. Update Official Course Outline with revisions made as an outcome of your project, as needed.

The official course outline for English 163 did not have to be changed to accommodate the integration of the various skills. The course outline encourages the integration of various research, writing, and critical thinking skills that were easily achieved. The learning community provided a better opportunity to integrate more writing and technology-enhanced instruction. Students provided very good feedback to the integration of technology in the teaching and learning process. The students' portfolios provide evidence of this. One area where the course outline can be modified is the addition of more technology related activities in reading. The one drawback for me was some of the technical issues with the hardware and software in the classroom PCs and the lack of time to do more with technology in the classroom. However, the overall experience was very positive. Perhaps a more versatile classroom such as the experimental classrooms would have been more ideal. But it does require a lot more planning and time for implementation. I still have students from that learning community coming up to me in the English Learning Center and expressing their various positive experiences with the course. That made the overall experience worth the effort.