TELeGRAM

Following the announcement in December that Sussex has chosen Canvas as its new VLE (Virtual learning enviroment), TEL and colleagues from ITS have been working on the transition from Study Direct. Canvas will be used for teaching and learning on all Sussex modules from the start of the 2018/19 academic year.

The new VLE represents a major investment in the resources provided for students, and positions Sussex at the forefront of digital learning. Canvas offers intuitive tools for the creation, organisation and sharing of learning materials, powerful online quizzing capabilities, and engaging features for communicating and interacting online.

Importantly alongside the new VLE staff will have access to

24/7 Canvas support, ensuring help is available at point of need irrespective of location or timezone.

TEL are developing an extensive programme of training and support for academic and professional services staff. We'll be pulling out all the stops to get everyone ready for the new opportunities in teaching and learning that using Canvas will bring. We are also engaging with USSU on a comprehensive communication plan for all students.

Keep an eye out for further announcements, including training dates.

You can keep up to date with the latest news via our new Canvas section on the TEL website at http://sussex.ac.uk/tel/canvas

Featured app - Adobe Spark

Adobe Spark is an easy to use content creator made of three tools: Post, Page and Video. On the web you can access all three through a single web page. On mobile devices the apps are seperate. These tools enable users to create stunning pages incorporating images, video and text overlayed with voiceovers.

We recommend Adobe Spark due to its ease of use and the quality of the output. Use it to add engaging content to your module sites. We find it a hit with students as they spend less time on the tech and more time on the content. Find out more at http://spark.adobe.com or read more on our blog at http://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/tel

Introducing TEL Case Studies

As part of a refresh of the TEL website, we have put together a new case studies section. A showcase of teaching excellence and innovation with technology happening across the university.

You'll find a range of brief video, audio and written interviews with staff explaining their teaching ideas, implementation and impact on learning and the student experience. We welcome contributions from staff who feel that their use of technology has had a positive effect on their teaching practice. If you'd like to contribute please get in touch by emailing tel@sussex.ac.uk

TEL Workshops Spring

Sign up via Sussex Direct or find further information at:
www.sussex.ac.uk/tel/workshops

Workshops	Date	Time
Peer Instruction and Just-in-time Teaching	09/03/18	10:00-12:00
Presentation Basics: Creating engaging & inclusive presentations	22/03/18	14:00-16:00
Teaching to large groups with technology	11/04/18	14:00-16:00
What is Flipped Learning?	19/04/18	14:00-16:00
Expanding Reality: A look at VR in education	04/05/18	10:00-12:00

Interactive teaching in Psychology with Nearpod

TEL have been facilitating an evaluation of the interactive presentation tool Nearpod. We spoke to Jennifer Mankin, Teaching Fellow in Psychology, to find out how she has been using Nearpod in her teaching.
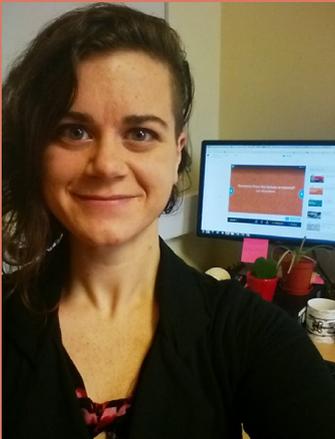
What motivated you to start using Nearpod?

I teach practicals for second-year statistics in psychology. Many students find this course difficult, so I was looking for a way to increase student interaction and make the material more engaging. Nearpod makes sure the students are on the same page at the same time, and its been a great way to promote student interaction with the material.

What kinds of activities have you been using this tool for?

As part of a more active learning style, students completed tutorials before they came to practicals. Using Nearpod, students could anonymously post questions at the start of class. This took the pressure off having to ask a question in front of a roomful of people. I also used Nearpod for comprehension checks, such as asking students to draw the graphs of regression lines or data distributions or anonymously answering quick quiz questions. Aside from providing a break from the challenging material, it also allowed me to check at a glance whether students had understood the concepts and identify aspects that needed more attention or explanation.

What has been the impact on the student experience?

The student reaction has been very positive, and the collaborative element gives an underlying sense that we are all – teacher, tutors, and students – in this together. Nearpod has helped me foster a more interactive and accessible environment for a very challenging subject.

Welcome to Mellow Sadik

Hi Mellow, what does your role entail?

I'm the Online Distance Learning Manager responsible for leading the development of the University's new online distance learning provision working with Pearson, our partners in distance learning.

How have things been progressing with Online Distance Learning?

So far it's been progressing very well, we've been working closely with Pearson and academic and professional services colleagues at Sussex to ensure we develop and deliver the highest quality online distance learning offer possible.

When will the first courses launch?

The first of the new online distance learning courses will start in September 2018.

Virtual Reality and 360 degree photography
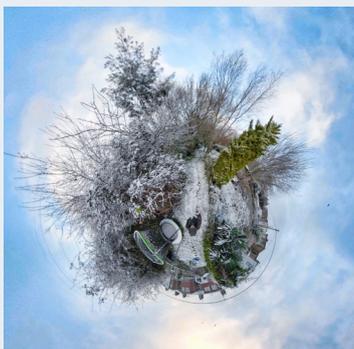
360 degree photography, virtual (VR) and augmented (AR) reality. It's hard to go without hearing about these terms at the moment. In a few years it has fast become part of the mainstream.

What have we been doing?

TEL have been exploring how we might use 360 degree photography and virtual reality to enrich our teaching. We've been using the Ricoh Theta S, a highly capable camera which we like for its ease of use and high quality stitching.

Recently we've also been experimenting with the GoPro Fusion, used in combination with free and paid for software tools. We've been investigating how we move the VR experience from a passive one, to an immersive and interactive one. For example Thinglink is one such tool which allows us to embed interactive hotspots and media into a 360 photo.

So what have we done, or what are we going to try and do?

That largely depends on what you, our colleagues, can think of. We want to develop actual use cases that are relevant to you and are used to enhance the learner experience. Some ideas so far have been in developing basic lab skills, lab familiarisation and much more.

We're also looking forward to working with the new Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education & Innovation) Prof Rorden Wilkinson on some exciting VR/AR projects over the coming months.

I'm interested in using this in my teaching, where can I find out more?

If you're interested in the use of 360 degree photography in your teaching or want to know more then please contact Dan Axson at D.Axson@sussex.ac.uk

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TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED LEARNING

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