Supporting weekly problem tasks
Discussion boards and self assessment resources

Outline

Use of the VLE to structure course materials, delivering standard lecture notes and slides as well as practice seminar questions and answers and demonstration excel spreadsheets. In addition each weekly topic has its own supporting discussion forum, which replaced e-mail as the main point of contact between staff and students.

The module was supported by a course text book with weekly topics being associated with designated chapters. The course text book was supplied with a range of supporting electronic materials which although accessible through the publisher’s website, are also made available through the VLE.

Aims and objectives

The VLE allowed the rapid creation of a “one-stop shop” resource for the module with a simple navigational structure so students can find common information quickly and easily for all the topics covered in the module. The main topic areas provided information that was directly linked to and led on from the face to face lecture series.

Students were expected to work through the provided sets of exercises prior to attending seminars associated with each topic. Providing the exercise answers allowed students to mark their own work, leaving the main focus of the seminars to “try to clarify and resolve any difficulties”.

The practice exercises were closely linked to additional reading from the core text book and other sources that students would be expected to complete. The discussion boards not only provided feedback and communication channels to support the exercises but also provided a medium for students to clarify the areas that they were struggling with and reflect on their own work.

Methodology

The site was created using the standard VLE tools and is supported by content sourced from the core text book publisher. These were originally provided in packaged files that required some reverse engineering by the central E-Learning Development Team before they could be deployed in the VLE.

Reflections

The module was well used by students, with over 9000 hits for the whole site and an average of 894 hits per topic area.

Mathematical techniques in economics

Dr John Bone
Dept of Economics
Year 1 UG (~150 students)
student skills, discussion, module design, formative tasks, assessment & feedback
Supporting weekly problem tasks
Discussion boards and self assessment resources

Next steps

- Contact John Bone via email at john.bone@york.ac.uk
- Contact the E-Learning Development Team via email at vle-support@york.ac.uk
- Intro to collaborative tools and Supporting Effective Groupwork online Training available. Sign up through the Yorkshare Training tab.