

## **GSTTS Seminar 5 - Summary**

Today's seminar was on using technology in and out of the classroom. Mostly we focused on what can be used out of the classroom, both for the instructor and their students.

We started by briefly asking how the mid-semester evaluations went. It seemed that many of the students appreciated the task and had good experiences with it. Afterwards, we went over the feedback we received in our seminar evaluations. The majority of the class preferred small group discussions and thought the seminar was well organized, though we could stand to delegate topics a bit more cleanly.

With regards to using technology, we started by going over the useful qualities of UNM Learn. In particular, we detailed how to set up a course, add assignments and manage a gradebook. A brief comparison of personal departmental webpages vs Learn followed.

Next we gave a short demonstration of LaTeX and how and why they should be using it. Not only for their own classwork and future research, but for its use in writing quizzes, exams, review guides, etc. We concluded with short demos of ALEKS and MyMathLab. Many of the students were tired and we were losing their attention, so we decided to end things here before covering some examples of technology they could use in their classes.

## **GSTTS Seminar 5 - Reflection**

The content of the seminar was very lecture oriented (not many people have taught long enough to have various experiences with implementing technology). So while we noted that most wanted the more interactive small group discussion, it just wasn't feasible here. As such, we were competing with dwindling attention spans from the rather busy and draining mid-semester exam schedule. All in all, things went smoothly. People were very inquisitive in the beginning and overall they exuded interest in some of the topics we were covering, like LaTeX. I think we did a reasonable job keeping the demonstrations short; they were tempting rather than in-depth. Choosing to go over Learn and LaTeX were excellent choices as they're powerful tools to have in their disposal for the upcoming semesters. And I think the fact that students were asking questions and making comments confirms that. Furthermore, having covered those essentials, we didn't feel bad about ending things early and giving everyone a chance to rest and process.