



Education students learning to use technology in the classroom

"These courses expose students to the power of collaborative, virtual environments, and will help them build helpful learning relationships which extend well beyond a credit course," says University of Regina professor of education Alec Couros.

Couros pays close attention to the evolution of existing technologies and the introduction of new ones. He says the ECMP 355 course has always featured a strong hands-on component that enables students to learn and explore emerging technologies that they can apply in the elementary or high school classroom.

e-mail to a web conferencing tool to create a "virtual classroom."

"Using web conferencing I was able to lecture, demonstrate, answer questions, facilitate discussion and run multimedia presentations," says Couros.

"It's always been helpful for the instructor to offer one-on-one help during lab hours," Couros explains. "This is more difficult to do at a distance, so the challenging aspect was to build the course so that students could begin to develop a learning community where they could help each other with technical problems, review each others' work and learn from each other. This was difficult," Couros continues.

technologically savvy, and pre-service teachers and experienced teachers, so they were able to learn much from each other in a way that worked well online."

One of the students in the course, Jillian House, relates her "incredible experience" applying what she learned when she was a teacher intern. She had students conduct research - using books, magazines and the Internet - on owls from Saskatchewan.

"Every day the kids would come into the classroom looking forward to science class, when they could work on their owl projects," House recalls. "The finished products far surpassed my expectations. I was proud of them, and the best part was, they were very proud of themselves," she adds.

Couros will be teaching the advanced course, ECMP 455, in the winter 2005

semester, and applying his experience from last spring.

"I had the pleasure of seeing practicing teachers take elements of their course assignments and use them directly in their classrooms the next day. Some of them commented on how the course really opened their eyes to tools they didn't know existed or thought were too complex to learn," Couros says.

Information about ECMP 355 is located at: http://education.uregina.ca/technology/ecmp355/

Professor Couros keeps in contact with other educators through: http://www.educationaltechnology.ca/couros

Information about Jillian House and her projects can be found at: http://uregina.ca/~house99j/index.htm.

CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Sept. 7-10 Administration Students' Society Welcome Daze Various activities, music and food Academic Green Info: 585-5414

Fri., Sept. 10 - 7 p.m. Comedy Night Ticketed: Glen Foster, That Canadian Guy Comedian price includes pre-coverage reception and Rams voucher. University Theatre, Riddell Centre Tickets/Info: 585-4503

Tues., Sept. 14 - 7:30 p.m. Humanities Research Institute Dr. Barbara Powell Lecture "Curtailed Rights, Lost Dignity: The Struggle of Afghan Women" Speaker: Nelofer Pazira Education Auditorium Info: 585-4304

Wed., Sept. 15 - 10:30 a.m. Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy Archaic Discussion "Canada vs. Great Britain: A Health System Comparison" Speaker: Ian Greener SIPP Window Room, Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus Info/Register: 585-5869

Wed., Sept. 15 - Noon Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar "Adult Learning in Canada: A Triple Helix" Speaker: John Biss Rm. 312, Education Bldg. Info: 585-4309

Thurs., Sept. 16 - 10:30 a.m. Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy seminar "Mixed Member Proportional Representation" Speaker: Kerry Howe SIPP Window Room, Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus Info: 585-5869

Wed., Sept. 22 - Noon Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar "Publishing and Promotion" Speakers: Margaret McKinnon, Kathy Nolan, Kathleen O'Reilly-Scanlon and Bernard Laplante Rm. 312, Education Bldg. Info: 585-4309

Thurs., Sept. 23 - 7:30 p.m. Luther Lecture "Sex and the City (of God): Augustine on the Resurrection Body" Speaker: Margaret Miles Education Auditorium Info: 585-5041

Fri., Sept. 24 - 9:30 a.m. Computer Science seminar "From Associations to Inferences" Speaker: Choh Man Teng Rm. 317.18, College West Bldg. Info: 585-4633

Fri., Sept. 24 - 3:30 p.m. Arts Lecture "Deep and Easy Knowledge: The Freudian Temptation" Speaker: Frederick Crews Campion College Auditorium Info: 585-4332/4226

Fri., Sept. 24 - 10:30 a.m. Luther Lecture "Tasteless Historical Stories and the History of Christian Thought" Speaker: Margaret Miles Luther College Auditorium Info: 585-5041

Tues., Sept. 28 - 9 a.m. Career Day 2004: Survivor Regina Opportunity to meet employers Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts (Doris Knight Hall) Info: 585-5221

For a complete Calendar of Events at the University of Regina visit our Web site at www.uregina.ca



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SAVED IN 4000

"Sin, Sex and Celibacy" kicks off coffee house series

"What we're doing is discussing everyday ideas and issues with people, as happened in the coffee houses of 18th century London," explains Thomas Chase, assistant dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Regina.

Chase says the first series, this past January thru May, drew such a good response that faculty are eager for a second round. He emphasizes that the topics and the talks by members of the arts faculty, are not "pie in the sky, or nose in the air. Our aim is to show that the research and publication work done by members of the Faculty of Arts is vitally linked to the issues of the day."

Three centuries ago, London's coffee houses were central to the social, cultural, commercial and political life of the city. Ned Ward, who wrote a journal called The London Spy, offered this description of his visit to a coffee house. "Some came, others went; some were scribbling, others were talking; some were drinking coffee, some smoking, and some arguing."

Most of these establishments served as reading rooms, with the cost of newsletters and pamphlets included in the one-penny admission charge. Many members of London's literary and scientific elite were daily visitors to their favourite coffee houses, which served as forums for discussing ideas. That's the spirit Coffee House Controversies hopes to capture, without the one-penny admission charge or the smoke-filled air, or course.

"People are eating their lunch and ordering coffee during the talk and discussion, so it's very informal," says Chase. "During the first series between 25 and 50 people participated at each session, with 50 being the upper limit for good discussion. We have a wide spectrum of topics lined up which we hope will provoke discussion," he adds.

The first talk, called "Sin, Sex and Celibacy" will likely generate much discussion. Shadia Drury, who teaches courses in both political science and philosophy, will base her talk on her research for a book she is writing about St. Thomas Aquinas.

"I will examine two arguments in favour of celibacy, one by St. Thomas and another by St. Gregory of Nyssa, a mystic and theologian who lived in the 4th century," Drury says. "I will show that these arguments fail to prove that celibacy is a virtue. Further, I will use examples from the history of the Church to point to the institutional evils which have been caused by the insistence on celibacy," she adds.

Drury will also explore the fates of the Middle Ages' most famous romantic couple, the star-crossed lovers Abelard and Heloise.

"I will discuss their story in order to show how their obsession with celibacy destroyed their maternal and paternal instincts of love for their child," Drury says. "All this leads me

to conclude that the celibate ideal inclines to vice, not virtue."

Anyone wanting to join the noon-hour discussion Sin, Sex and Celibacy should meet at Roca Jack's (1939 Scarth St.) on September 16 at 12:10 p.m.

(For the complete schedule, watch for posters on campus and around town, or go to: http://www.uregina.ca/arts/coffeehousecontroversies.html).



Student ambassador Ryan Metcalf (yellow T-shirt) was one of the tour guides for a group of first-year administration students during Orientation Week on the University campus last week. Beginning-of-semester festivities continue this week and next - as do classes, which got under way in earnest on Tuesday this week.

U of R Photo by A/V Services



The Dr. Barbara Powell Visiting Lecturer Series



Award-Winning Journalist, Film Maker, and Star of the Movie Kandahar

Nelofer Pazira

"Curtailed Rights, Lost Dignity: The Struggle of Afghan Women"

Tuesday, 14 September 2004, 7:30 p.m.

Education Auditorium, University of Regina Admission is Free and All Are Welcome Free Parking in Lot 15 [M area] and Lot 17. Paid Parking in Lot 8. For further information, check the HRRI website at www.uregina.ca/hrri or call 585-4304

As the world's past, the rights, integrity and security of Afghan women have become a topic of global concern. However, there's been little discussion about the historical conditions that shaped the grim reality of women in Afghanistan, nor about the strength of Afghan women for equality throughout the country's modern history. Now a film ever been a woman's movement in Afghanistan? What are the key Afghan women and is there right to speak? Or what are the key Afghan women have sought because the opposing forces of modernization and the old tribal conservatism? How does the current political climate in the country affect women's lives?



We want to hear from you! Tell us what you think of the U of R Update page E-mail your comments to

communications@uregina.ca