Project Year

2001

Project Team

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Project Title

Art History: Enhancing the Introductory Courses

Audience

75 or more students enroll in *Introduction to the History of European Art* in both the spring and fall semesters. The tools developed for this course could also be used as templates for other courses taught by the Art History department, or for other image-intensive courses in other departments.

Pedagogical Issue

Presenting seven centuries of art in a one-semester class leaves little time for reflection or analytical discussion. In addition, current course resources limit student access to critical study materials, such as the images shown in class. Students review images by reserving a single tray of slides through the department library—a complicated and cumbersome scheduling task during exam week.

Solution

This project team proposes to develop an online course environment to deliver resources that enable discussion, provide easier access to course materials, and offer new opportunities for critical thinking. A digital image database will archive lesson slide shows, allowing students 24-hour access to class materials from any Internet-connected computer. Online quizzes will feature mock exam questions to help students prepare for tests. A peer review software tool will be integrated into the course site, to allow students to write analytical essays about images from the class and then submit them for constructive feedback from their fellow students. This software models the peer review process used by professional art historians in evaluating research. All of these tools will be linked through course discussion boards that allow students to post questions to TAs and fellow students. Students can also contact the Eisenhower Library's art history resource librarian for help in identifying on-line and traditional resources and developing topics for research papers. The TAs will extend their office hours through the class site and enhance discussions by conducting weekly chats online.

Technologies Used

Web Design, Programming – Database Design, Course Ware Integration