

ROGER McDONALD



What do you use SmartSite for?

Primarily, I use SmartSite for my Nutrition 105: Nutrition and Aging class. I use the module tool to upload my lectures' outlines and link the outlines to slides that are used in class. The chat room is used for an online office hour. I also post online quizzes through the Quiz builder, and the scores are downloaded directly into the Grade book. I make extensive use of the wiki—I have my students use it to write a collaborative project on a subject concerning the biology of aging.

When did you start using it?

I was asked by Kirk Alexander, SmartSuite's program manager, about a year and half ago to be one of the three or four faculties to beta-test the first rollout of Sakai. I built Nutrition 105 last year using Sakai with the help of the Faculty Mentoring Faculty Program.

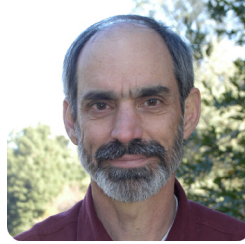
What's your advice to new users?

Building a course site takes time, and there is no getting around that. Don't let the upfront work scare you off; once the content is there, it is there forever and you will never again search around for your lecture notes, slides, or other information. Start slow and use a few simple functions first. As with any e-learning tool, content is what matters.

How do you see yourself using it in two years?

I really don't see any change in the way that I use SmartSite. As new tools or revisions of the current tool roll out, I will find some use for them.

KENNETH SHACKEL



What do you use SmartSite for?

To post lectures and previous exams.

When did you start using it?

I started using SmartSite in earnest in winter 2007 for Biosciences 1C, specifically to use the quiz feature. I wanted the students to have access to online multiple-choice quizzes consisting of eight questions drawing from a large pool of questions. After finishing the quiz, the students would get a score and item-level feedback for each answer they chose. Unfortunately, the first quiz version of SmartSite was not designed to allow for practice quizzes, and I had to use an older version of the same approach.

What's your advice to new users?

Might as well start using it now!

How do you see yourself using it in two years?

For sure, the improved quiz feature will be useful as soon as it is available, and the wiki might be valuable for classes that involve collaborative writing.

CHRISTOPHER FROH



What do you use SmartSite for?

I use SmartSite to post relevant materials for my Music 10 class. These include the syllabus, daily lecture schedule, announcements, audio examples and other resources including glossaries and composer biographies. The chat room is a popular function among the students (especially the night before tests and quizzes). In addition, I've used the Message Center function for an online writing assignment viewable to the whole class.

When did you start using it?

This is my first try.

What's your advice to new users?

Start familiarizing yourself with the system well before you think you should! It's a lot to learn and operating certain functions was counter-intuitive to me. Also, make best friends with your trainer; the tech staff is excellent and will do all they can to help you. Finally, be sure to test every function you plan to use before you enable it.

How do you see yourself using it in two years?

I'm interested in exploring the tutorial function. This would be a good resource for the students, but seems to be quite a bit of work on the front-end to enable.