

Abstract

Effectiveness of Web-based Engineering Science Instruction

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An online course content delivery and learning management system, Blackboard was employed in teaching Engineering Mechanics – Statics. This was offered to one section of the course each semester with a total of approximately 100 students during the 2003-04 academic year. About a third of these students had prior experience with Blackboard in other courses. Blackboard allows instructors to publish course material, conduct communications and coordinate class events online with minimal knowledge of HTML or Web design. Users in general, have claimed that through the use of this technology, more material can be covered with improved understanding; greater participation among students is possible with a sense of ownership. Engineering Mechanics – Statics is a traditional engineering science course required of almost all engineering majors in the program. This paper presents the findings and discussion on how effective this approach has been in a typical engineering science course.