

# Collaborative Sites: Student Interaction and Knowledge Building with Drupal

## Courses using Collaborative Sites (Fall 09):

- Communication Arts 262 - Theory and Practice of Argumentation and Debate
- East Asian Studies 351 – Cavern of the Slanting Moon and Three Stars
- East Asian Studies 358 – Language in Japanese Society
- French 901 - Méthodes de recherche
- Italian 102 / 203 – Italian language courses
- Psychology 202 – Introduction to Psychology
- Scandinavian Studies 520 - The Scandinavian Modern Phenomenon

## Needs:

- A robust platform for student-to-student collaboration
- A mix of blog-like and wiki-like interaction
- Student workspaces, online course communities
- Alternatives to 3<sup>rd</sup>-party tools (e.g., blogger, pbwiki)
- Media friendly, with support for images, audio, video

## The Collaborative Sites Platform:

- Rapid development of online learning environments
- Consultation leads to custom content types and environment
- Drupal 6 + Contributed modules – all free and open source, nearly zero custom code

## More information:

- <http://lss.wisc.edu/collaborative-sites>

**Collaborative Sites**

COURSE INFO | BROWSE | HELP | MY ACCOUNT | CHAT | LOG OUT

**CREATE**

- Course info
- Glossary post
- Wiki post
- Page
- Post
- Email message

**MY BOOKMARKS**

- What is a Collaborative Site?

**MY RECENT POSTS**

- Weekly reflection
- Background
- What is a Collaborative Site?
- Custom content types and interaction
- Media Friendly

**Custom content types and interaction**

Collaborative Sites allows instructors to craft the interaction they hope to foster through custom content types, or custom content types. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. [Read more](#)

**Collaborative Writing**

Collaborative Sites allows wiki-like interaction among multiple authors, or custom content types. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. [Read more](#)

**Media Friendly**

Collaborative Sites allows easy posting of audio files as well as video files. In future versions of Collaborative Sites we hope to take advantage of a campus "media-pipes" infrastructure, allowing upload, conversion, and quick posting of audio and video to the site. [Read more](#)

**CREATE**

- Create
- Post
- Resource
- Wiki post
- Email instructors / site feedback

**Instructors create custom content types based on the needs for their course. This allows for wiki-like and blog-like interaction in a common space.**

**Brain and Behavior Cognition Development History Overview Intelligence Learning Memory Motivation Personality Psychological Disorders and Treatment Research Methods Social Psychology States of Consciousness Stress and Coping**

**Students use tags to organize and track posts.**

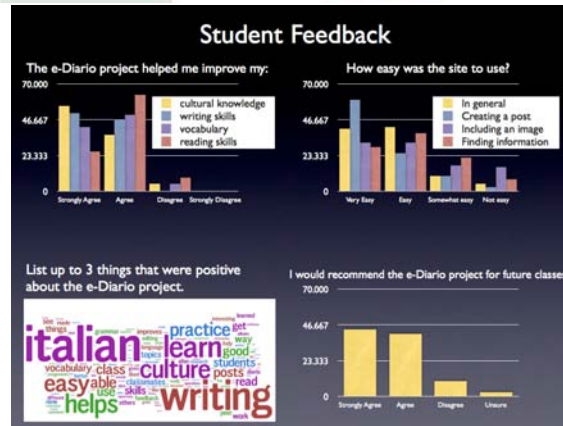
**MY GROUPS**

Group New

Section 303 03 new

See all groups

**Classes can divide into groups. Groups can be created by instructors or students. Each group gets its own homepage on the site.**



**Cavern of Slanting Moon and Three Stars**

HELP | Browse: Media Galleries - Image Gallery

**CREATE**

- Create
- Post
- Resource
- Wiki post
- Page
- Post
- Email message

**MY BOOKMARKS**

Foreign language students share YouTube videos from the target culture

Psychology students create a gallery of "neurons" made from found objects

# An Environment for Teaching Ethics & Globalization: Using Drupal as a Course Hub

## Course Details:

- Course Title: Globalization, Technology & Ethics
- Geographically Distributed Students: enrollments from three separate Penn State Campuses
- Course Goal: introduces students in engineering and other technical fields to the ethical and global aspects of their work & aims to increase their analytical skills.
- Writing Assignments: students create individual blogs using the Blogs@PSU platform to evaluate ethical cases and initiate conversations with peers

## Needs:

- Allow for distributed class to have a community space for discussing & debating ethical issues
- To pull individual student blogs into one place: the course hub
- To allow for interaction between students without asking students to go to multiple individual blogs
- To encourage debate & critical evaluation of arguments

## The Course Hub (Drupal + Drigg):

- All student blog entries in one place
- Student roster & topic-based tag clouds
- Threaded commenting
- Ability to vote on peer posts; highest vote-getters move up the list

## Examples of Ethical Issues:

- Corporate and personal rights and responsibilities
- Conflicts of interest, whistle blowing
- International trade in a global marketplace
- Risk assessment, ethics of design choices and social impacts
- Sustainable development
- The purpose of codes of ethics and their application

All student blogs loaded to centralized site

Entries can be grouped by author (student) or topic through use of tags

Comments are threaded, making it easier to see responses

Similar entries are recommended to students if they want to read peer thoughts on a related topic

Students can vote on peer entries that they find insightful

Blog entries with high vote totals may be incorporated into lecture

Students can also leave comment to peer blog entries

