Diverse Needs in the Classroom

myCourses, Communication, Co-teaching

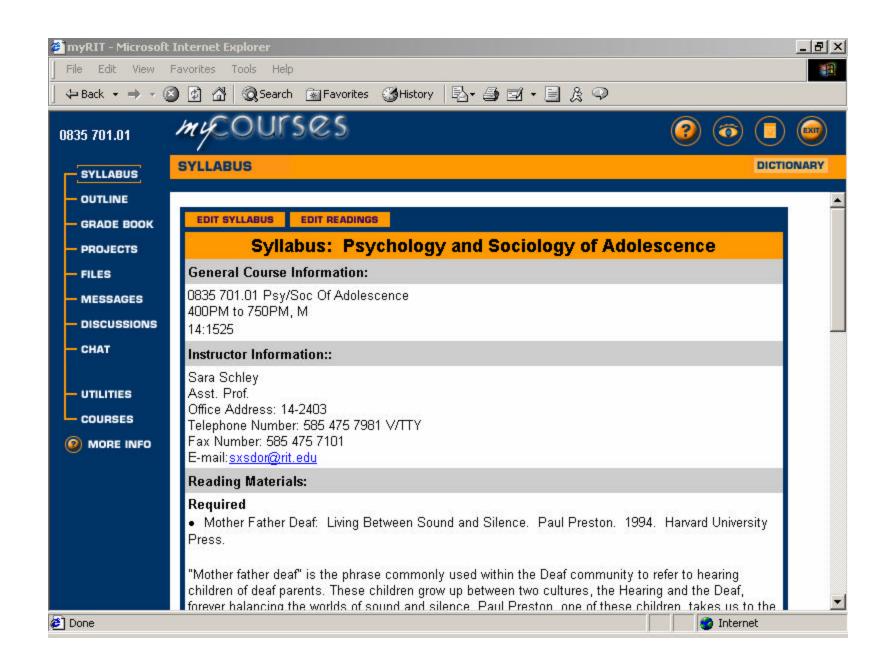
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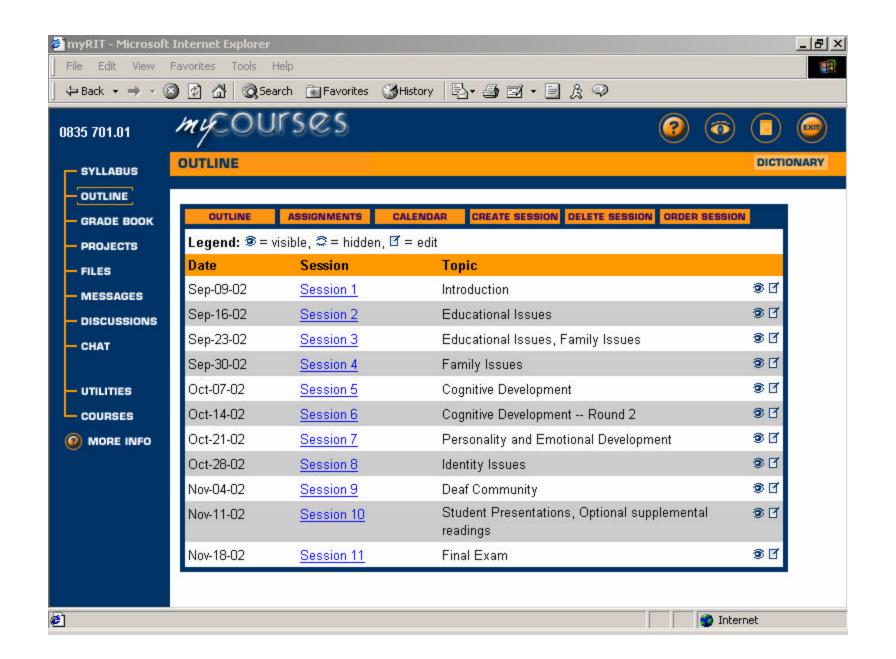
Overview

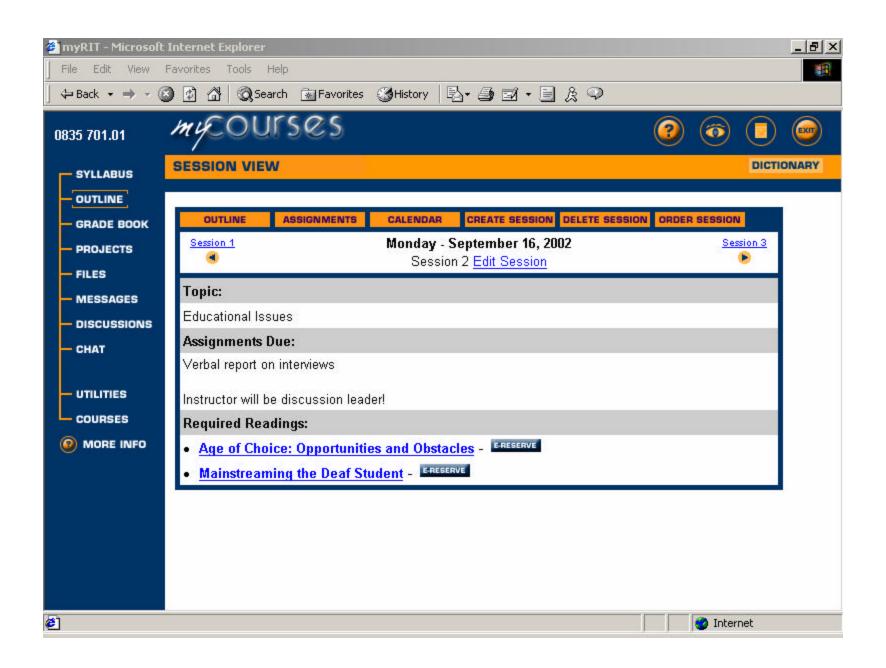
- Effective use of myCourses in a lecture/discussion course
- Managing diverse communication needs in the classroom
- Teaching and co-teaching

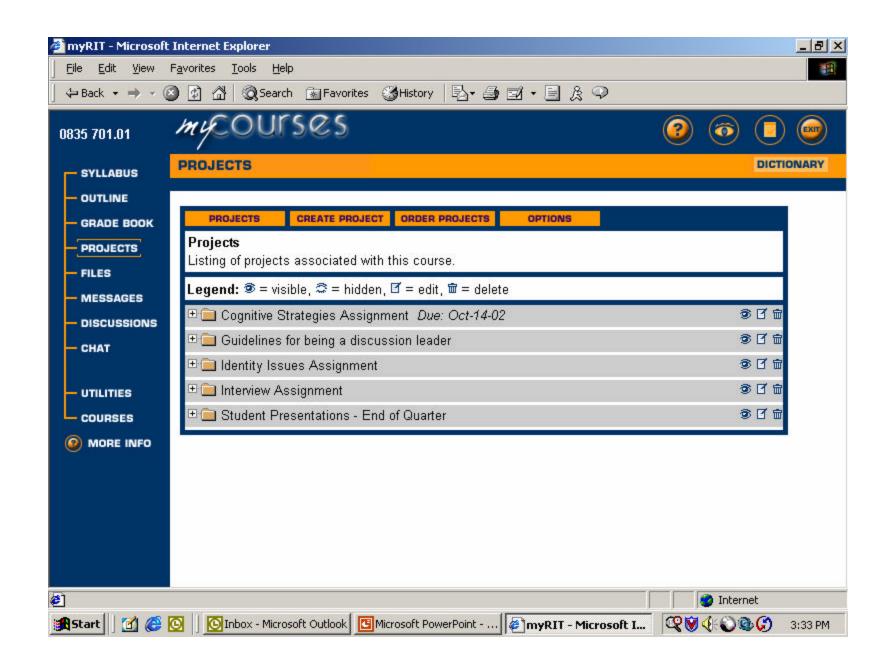
myCourses: First Attempt

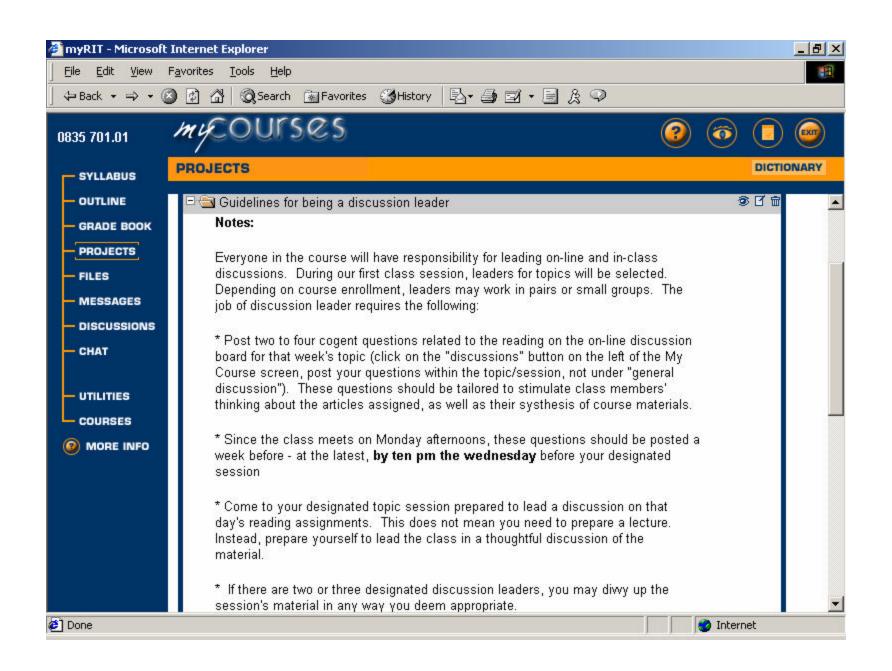
- First integrated into Psychology and Sociology of Adolescence course Fall 2002
- Syllabus, course outline, *all* readings, assignments, grades: Available on-line
- Also used discussion board





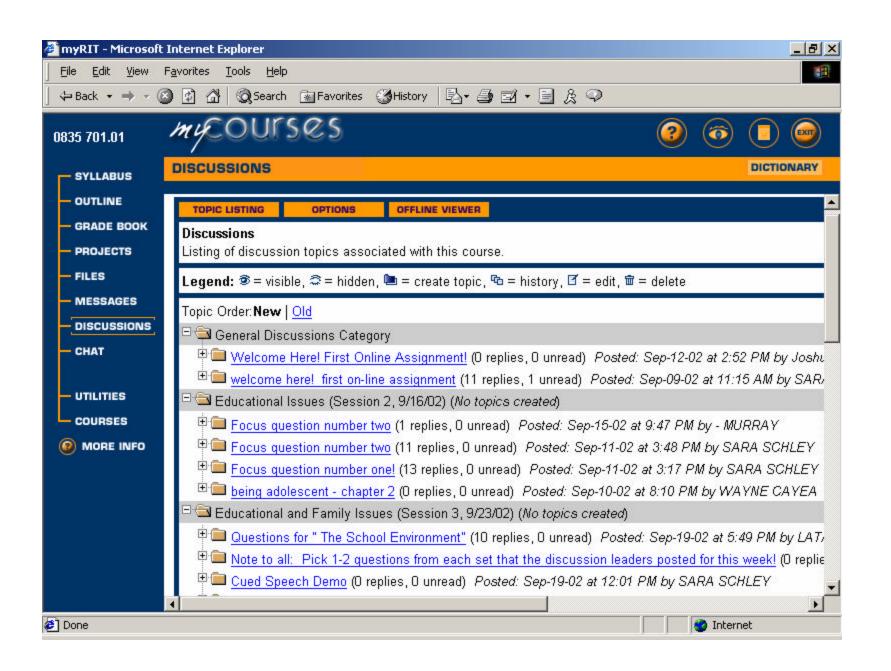


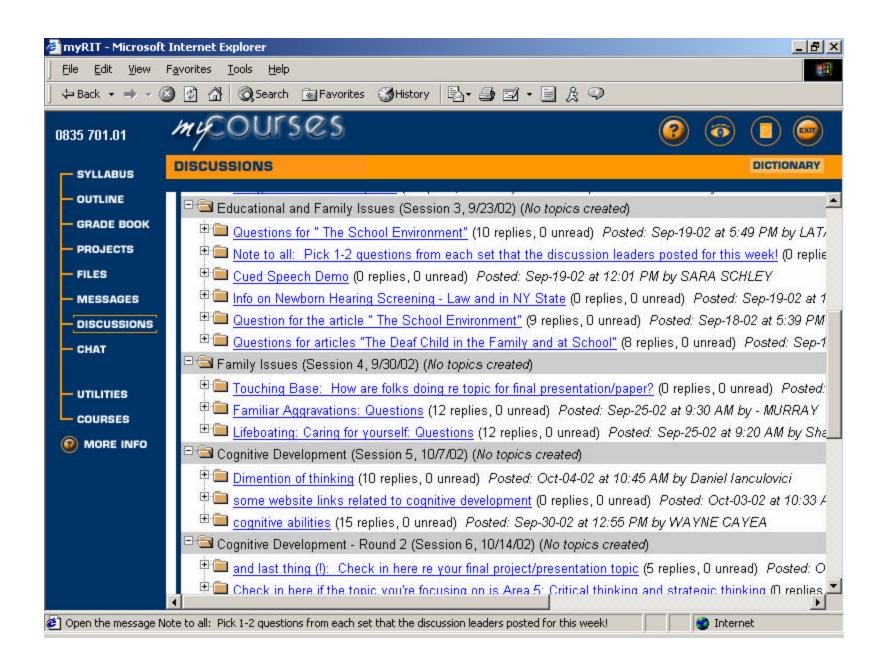




Pre-focusing class discussion

- Students or faculty can lead discussion
- Weekly assignment: Answer few questions focusing on that week's readings.
- Goal is NOT to write an essay before class
- Rather, to engage in *some* critical thought before class





Diverse communication needs

- Last fall: 13 students, ~ 1/2 deaf, 1/2 hearing
- Deaf students: ~1/2 preferred more ASL, ~1/4 sim. com., ~1/4 voice/lipreading dependent
- Hearing students: ~1/2 were *new* signers, ~1/4 were decent sim. com. users, ~1/4 could switch easily between sim. com. and ASL. One was a non-native hearing user of English
- Wide variety of other cultures in the classroom race, religion, schooling, etc.

Managing Communication

- Difficult!
- Class was included in process of developing some strategies
- Students had to take some control over asserting when they were NOT following discussion/conversation
- Writing on the board was always equalopportunity back-up plan

Discussion Board and Communication Needs

- Started with the goal of an opportunity to prefocus class discussion
- Very quickly, it became apparent that the discussion board also served to put everyone on a more equal footing *before* any class session
- (Almost) everyone arrived at class with a more thorough reading of articles, as well as some idea of the range of opinions across class-mates

Teaching and co-teaching

- This course has had synergistic quality even before co-teaching
- Mike had previously taught the course, Sara took over the course last fall
- This coming fall, enrollment is doubling we will be co-teaching
- And we will co-teach two sections

Mike: Course-planning Notes

- Course is geared towards being a combination of:
 - A traditional Adolescent Development course
 - An introduction to the field of Deaf Education
- Students are new to the program (first quarter here)
- Annually course readings are updated –no single text would suit

Sara: Planning

- Challenge of course is how it serves multiple purposes – Psychological development focus, introduction to deaf education focus
- Many materials and assignments "borrowed" from Mike's course
- I "added" the myCourses influence

Two sections

- Use myCourses course content modules
- Decide on weekly topics, assignments, syllabus together before course begins
- Maintain "single source" of assignments and course content that is provided from us

Co-teaching

- We have divided the weekly topics each taking primary responsibility for about half of the topics
- We will co-teach both sections
- During weeks where one of us is primarily responsible – that person will lead both sections, the other will attend at least one section

Goals

- Economy of time spent on teaching?
- Rather we are looking to feed off of each other, and do solid, collaborative teaching
- Students will benefit
- As will we

Other ideas

- Communication easy access to emailing group (for students also)
- Chat
- Setting up cooperative learning groups