2-1E Using traditional virtual spaces in non-traditional, innovative ways

Kerry Trewern, School of Law, Rhona McNair, School of Law

Students wishing to practise law in Scotland must complete the Diploma in Professional Legal Practice (DPLP); a vocational course regulated by the Law Society of Scotland. Our case-study highlights innovation in our Civil Litigation course and shows how this can be applied more widely. The DPLP managerial and administrative team, with student representatives, will demonstrate how technology assists independent learning. The DPLP team has obtained feedback from students, the legal profession and regulator, all of whom support innovative learning.

- Collaborative, independent learning: a look at how this is encouraged and assessed on our course and the subsequent benefit to students.
- Quizzes: students can direct their own learning, by self-testing throughout and must complete an online assessment.
- Peer Review: students submit a client advice letter and then carry out a peer review exercise via Aropä. Each student must review three letters and comment upon clarity and use of plain English.
- Filmed Assessment: students are filmed interacting in a mock court hearing. Senior tutors and external examiners then moderate the advocacy standard. This type of assessment could be used by other areas across the University.
- Filmed Resources: students can watch examples of court hearings, filmed in the School of Law's moot court room with role-play by legal professionals. Interviews with court staff in Glasgow Sheriff Court are also available, providing a meaningful context for learning.
- E-modules: students watch e-modules and can download transcripts, to enhance independent learning.
- Feedback: students submit online feedback via Moodle mid-way through course.

Presentation from three perspectives:

- 1. Educator: managerial team will discuss pedagogical reasons for and advantages of use of technology in a vocational course.
- 2. Administration: DPLP administrative assistant will explain benefits and challenges of using technology for assessments.
- 3. Student: DPLP students will provide insight into and feedback on the student experience.