

UW to expand podcast offerings

23 courses are being podcast this quarter; allocation of \$10,000 will expand project

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CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The UW is one year into a pilot program to podcast, or "coursecast," selected courses, and now it's working to broaden the scope of the project.

At the beginning of this school year, Classroom Support Services (CSS) decided to allocate \$10,000 of its classroom technology budget toward this goal.

"Podcasting is a huge success across the board," said David Aldrich, CSS assistant director. "The pilot group was interested in expanding the number of rooms that were outfitted with podcasting equipment. We wanted to outfit ten more rooms, and to purchase a redundant server to ensure the service had high availability."

Since fall 2005 CSS, in partnership with several other UW departments and entities,

has been experimenting with incorporating podcasts into the curricula of some large lecture courses.

Lectures are recorded live and uploaded onto the CSS website. Students can then download the lectures and listen to them at their convenience

program.

Catalyst, the UW's education technology team, recently completed an assessment of last year's podcasting experiment.

The report's primary conclusion challenges the received wisdom that the portability of an

coordination [to study for their courses]."

Although 76 percent of students who responded to the assessment owned an MP3 player, 87 percent preferred listening to podcasts on a computer.

A majority of courses offering podcasts also offer several other web-based materials such as lecture notes, PowerPoint slides and course readings. According to the report, students tend to access audio and visual components simultaneously.

Freshman Kimberly Mathews is in a geography class with professor Matthew Sparke, who is podcasting his lectures for the first time this quarter.

"I think [the podcast] is useful," she said. "The best way to study for a midterm is with the podcast and the [PowerPoint] slides together."

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Students tend not to listen to the lectures on iPods. They typically listen sitting at computers. The podcasts are just one tool in an arsenal of different tools they use in coordination [to study for their courses].

— Cara Lane, Catalyst report writer

on a computer or MP3 player.

Podcasting was initially offered in only four courses but has continued to grow every quarter. There are currently 23 courses in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Health Sciences schools that participate in the

MP3 player is the podcasts' main draw, said Cara Lane, who wrote the Catalyst report.

"Students tend not to listen to the lectures on iPods," Lane said. "They typically listen sitting at computers. The podcasts are just one tool in an arsenal of different tools they use in



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of Iraq was "immoral and wrong," he said.

"It has taken the U.S. three years to find out what the Greeks knew from the beginning," he said.

Kiesling said he believes the high level of global disdain toward the United States emerged because our country is seen as "strong and unjust." He said the United States has a tendency to favor military recourse over engaging in sufficient cross-cultural dialogue to seek out solutions to international crises.

"When you're not curious about the world," Kiesling said, "it shows you already think you know too much."