Brenda Barnes

Overview of InTeGrate Module Use

Spring 2015 Classes

***UTEP – ESCI 1301 Introduction to Environmental Science***

The use of InTeGrate Modules in this class during Spring 2015 was limited. With the class being only once per week at night, it felt like the classes zoomed by and there wasn’t a lot of time to implement the modules. In addition, there were 48 students in the class, which for me was a large class and a little intimidating. In hindsight, looking at the success I felt the modules were with the EPCC class, I regret not incorporating more of the activities into this class. I will use more in future environmental science classes if I get the opportunity to.

The following unit was used in this class:

*Climate of Change Module*

*Unit 1 - Forecasting Climate Variability and Change: A Matter of Survival*

This unit was deployed to the class as an optional extra credit assignment opportunity. The article handout was made available on Blackboard to all of the students as a supplement to the class unit on Climate Change. The students read through the article comparing and contrasting the issues associated with the Incas, Mayans and Vikings and completed the Reading Comprehension Quiz for an extra credit assignment worth 20 points. The grade distribution from the assignment is tabulated below:

|  |
| --- |
| Climate of Change - Unit 1 Climate Variability and Change |
| ESCI1301 |  |  |  |  |  |
| # Students in Class | # Students that Participated in Exercise | Average Grade | Median Grade | Min Grade | Max Grade |
| 48 | 26 | 98 | 100 | 80 | 100 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grade | # Students |  |  |  |  |
| 100 | 17 |  |  |  |  |
| 98 | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| 95 | 7 |  |  |  |  |
| 80 | 1 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

The feedback I got from the students was generally that they dreaded another reading assignment at the outset (but they wanted the extra points). The article got them interested quickly and at the end they enjoyed the reading and thinking about the concepts of climate change and how cultures adapted.

***General Notes of Use of the Modules***

The modules provided great resources on many topics central to our classes. The also provide alternatives to the “Powerpoint overload” method of teaching. I liked that the activities were very interactive and they provided good breaks in the normal class routines. The activities were thought provoking and we had lots of good discussions based on the materials that I used in my classes. I plan to use several of the activities again and also plan to scope out using some of the others that are available.