Introduction

Collaborative learning involves a group of students working together in a mutually dependent way in order to learn something. Most computing and other professional degrees include one or two dedicated collaborative learning ("project") courses, usually in the final year, designed to simulate work practices in industry. However, recent years has seen growing interest in introducing collaborative learning into a wide variety of courses and disciplines. The movement is driven by demand from institutions and from students, and is underpinned by new affordances arising from networked software.

This course will present participants with first-hand experience of range of collaborative learning technologies. Theories of teaching and learning, as they relate to collaborative learning, will be studied. Participants will analyse how technologies relate to teaching and learning theory, with reference to their own experiences, both within the course and from previous study. Finally, some of the evidence that has been presented for the success or otherwise of a selection of technologies will be assessed and critically evaluated.

Instructor

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http://www.it.uu.se/edu/course/homepage/cosulearning/st11

Organisation

The course will open with three weekly tutorials, held 10.15–12.00 on consecutive Mondays in Polacksbacken room 1211, starting 13 June. After Midsommer, you will work on an independent project. Projects will be presented to the class on 2 August.

Independent project

The major coursework component is an independent project in which you will propose a CSCL intervention and evaluation. Your report will

• describe the intervention, the context for its use, and its intended outcomes;
• provide a justification for the intervention in terms of teaching and learning theory; and

• outline how the intervention can be evaluated.

The report should be between 6 and 10 pages, and should follow the ACM publications template: http://www.acm.org/sigs/publications/proceedings-templates.

Tutorial topics

The tutorials will be delivered flexibly, with the intent of covering the following topics:

• the history and context of CSCL;

• learning theories, including social constructivism, acquisition and participation metaphors of learning, and dissenting views;

• case studies of CSCL tools, including wikis, blogging, peer assessment, and question bank authoring;

• conducting a literature search;

• assessing the evidence.

— John Hamer, 13 June 2011