

“Tailoring a Large Course with Telesis”

ITeach Symposium January 12, 2006

Robert E. Hegel, ANELL

- A. A Tour of the site for L06 ACC 227 Chinese Civilization (enrollment: 100)
 - 1. Topics (backbone of the site)
 - 2. Assignments (explained in detail)
 - 3. Calendar (specifies what reading, what writing by what date)
 - 4. Links (to reliable resources, through the East Asian Library homepage)
 - 5. Files (*many*, including images and texts on great variety of topics)
 - 6. Grade book (Example: Final: Responses 20%, Quizzes 10%, Essays 20% each, final 30%; Midterm: Responses 30%, Quiz 20%, Essay 50%)

- B. Setting it up (the functions of items in the left column of the Telesis page)
 - 1. Topics—manage (paste in from Word document)
 - 2. Assignments—manage (paste in)
 - 3. Calendar—manage
 - 4. Links—manage (type in)
 - 5. Files—manage (upload from other sources)
 - 6. Topics—manage, to link all together

- C. Cosmetics (changing the fonts to be consistent, etc.)

- D. Explanation: Strengths of limiting materials for papers, etc., to what’s on the Telesis site
 - 1. Allows diverse interests in response papers on the various Telesis files (Students from A&S, Art, Arch, Bus, Engr)
 - 2. Assuring common information through quizzes and final examination
 - 3. Avoiding duplication of assignments by providing many essay topics
 - 4. Spacing the work load—for both faculty and students (staggering due dates between A-M and N- Z surnames)
 - 5. Allows personal exploration of own interests while encouraging development of new ones—for both students and faculty

- E: Explanation: Downsides
 - 1. Must make uncommon or specific paper topics, not allow others without consultation—to avoid students’ lifting papers from the Web.
 - 2. Lots of reading for faculty and TA to be familiar with all Telesis materials; students read only self-selected samples.

3. Apples and oranges in writing assignments; not easy to compare with each other for consistency in grading.