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Western Washington University

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SHORT PIECES

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

GEORGE MARIZ

Some classes in the Honors Program at Western Washington are beginning to use instructional technology, chiefly as a result of initiatives from individual instructors. Some employ internet resources in their non-Honors university course offerings, and when they teach cognate classes for the Honors Program, they bring these innovations with them. These classes have been universally in the general education program. The geology department, which teaches a general education course for the program most years, has been the most aggressive in this regard and uses everything from readily available internet sites that have good collections of material on mineralogy and continental drift, to more sophisticated internet resources that deal with volcanism. Honors seminars have sometimes been extremely innovative, and one, on gender issues offered during the 2001-2002 academic year, required students collectively to create a webpage, which proved to be both a daunting and academically rewarding exercise. In short, while there is no mandate from the program or the university to use technology, it is moving into the instructional regimen of virtually every department and program, Honors among them.

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