ICT & International Communication

国際理解教育／英語・D.R. ボグダン

Overview:

This is the third year this class has been offered as an elective rather than a requirement for students in the Education for International Understanding (EIU) Course. Two years ago, only eight of the 17 sophomores registered. Last year there were ten. And this year, the number rose to 15, which means all the sophomores majoring in EIU took the class, along with one student from another major. While it is gratifying to see this increase, having 16 students made one-to-one interaction, which is really needed for a class such as this, quite challenging.

As in the past, the students were to accomplish two major goals: to create personal web pages in both English and Japanese (or, for one of the students, Chinese and Japanese), and to produce JavaScript-based interactive educational material promoting cultural awareness and/or language learning. The latter task took the form of group projects.

Contents:

As in previous years, the course followed the following timeline: Basic Introduction (one class only), Webpage Design (HTML and CSS), and Interactive Projects with JavaScript.
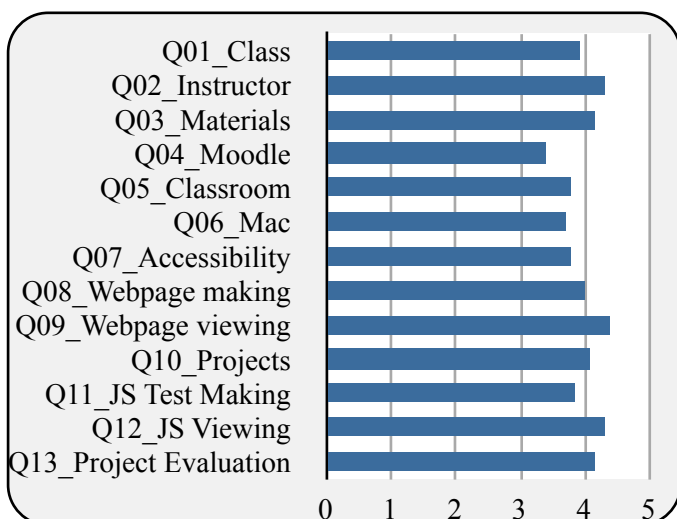
One major difference was that the webpage authoring occupied a significantly greater portion of the class this year because much more attention was given to using CSS, in keeping with modern webpage design. As a result, the students tended to pay much more attention to detail, especially regarding the personal webpages, than in the past. This also, however, unfortunately led to more time demands on the instructor (and the students).

Evaluation:

The students were asked to complete a short evaluation at the end of the course.   The evaluation was conducted using a Moodle questionnaire module and consisted of two parts: 13 items asking for ratings on a five-point Likert scale followed by three open-ended items asking for comments. Of the 15 students who finished the class, 13 participated in the evaluation.

Likert Results:

The students were asked to rate the following: Class, Instructor, Materials, Moodle, Classroom, Accessibility, Webpage making, Webpage viewing, Projects, JS Test, Project Viewing, and Project Evaluation. A chart with the results of the Likert-rated items is seen on the left.

While they were generally positive (4.0 average out of 5.0), the ratings dropped slightly from those given two years ago. This was a disappointment, especially considering the increase in the amount of work that went into preparing and conducting the class. However, one saving grace was that the average was still higher than that given three years ago, so this is not necessarily a trend.

As before, however, Moodle Use received the lowest score, which is interesting, for, from the point of view of the instructor, the course in its present form would be impossible without it.

Student Comments:

The comments are given below, translated into English where necessary and marked with a "[sic]" when the students answered in English. The positive responses outweighed the negative, and the negative ones derived from a distaste for having to do homework. There was one negative comment on the use of Macs, but this was more than made up for by all the positive ones. A common thread was that, while the students had previously tended to have a hard time using computers--their major leans towards liberal arts and humanities--they were able to learn in this class. Perhaps this will give them a leg up in our increasingly technologically-oriented society.

Usefulness:	Changes Needed:	Other Comments
⬤Being able to gather a lot of information in order to make webpages. ⬤tag, javascript [sic] ⬤Being able to learn about making webpages, etc. was very good. ⬤Being able to make a webpage that I liked. ⬤Mastering the basics of webpage design. I had never made a webpage before. Also, learning how to use a Mac. ⬤I found the useful to learn about webpage or the system. [sic] ⬤Not only making webpages, but also editing video and audio was very good. Also, the knowledge gained by seeing what the other groups and other students did and in making my own webpages will be useful in the future. ⬤I can know how to use MAC's PC. It is difficult to understand how to use by myself. [sic] ⬤Being able to make webpages was good. ⬤Learning how to use Macs and how to make webpages. ⬤Being able to consult with the other students. ⬤Learning how to use a Mac. ⬤Learning more about how to use computers and being able to use a Mac was good experience.	⬤We should focus on making one webpage! Because it will have us concentrate to make a webpage. [sic] ⬤I like Macs now. ⬤It was very difficult to understand MAC.[sic] ⬤Need to increase time to make webpages. It was a bit hard having to work on them outside of class. ⬤Had to do work outside of class. Would be helpful if everything could be completed in class. ⬤Would like to have had more time to work on webpages. ⬤Would be better to reduce the time for explanation to allow more time in class to work. ⬤Was a lot to learn. Could understand better if amount of material were reduced.	⬤Group projects were fun! ⬤I enjoyed this class! Thank you very much! [sic] ⬤Thank you. ⬤An interesting class that increased our knowledge. ⬤Thank you for your consideration to us! [sic] ⬤I would like to learn more about JavaScript and making well-designed webpages, which would be useful in the real world. ⬤Thank you fore teaching us!!!! Maybe....I can use MAC Pc more effectively compared with before. [sic] ⬤It was a very difficult class, but I learned how to use a Mac for the first time. ⬤For someone like me who has a hard time with computers, the instructor was very helpful. It was a fun class! ⬤It was too bad we weren't able to get the final pages to run properly. If we had more chances to see other peoples' pages throughout the course, we probably could have come up with better pages. Given the chance, I'd like to try again, but without the teacher's help, I wouldn't be able to. ⬤It was a great opportunity to make webpages and quizzes from scratch! I'm not good with computers, but it was a fun class. Thank you very much for all your help. ⬤Thank you for finding out various ways to help us do the things we wanted. I feel I've learned at least a little about how to use a computer.