Motivation/Purpose

Students in online introductory language courses have a high initial drop-out rate. As an instructor who designs and teaches online Japanese, I want to find a way to help students hang in there and do well in these courses.

Aim/Goals/Intended Outcomes

I identified two main barriers to students remaining in online introductory courses:

1. Students are unaware the course they enrolled for is an online course
   - Goal: early notification with students to both be sure they understand the demands of the course and have an opportunity to learn computer skills needed for the course.

2. Japanese is a difficult language to learn in any setting.
   - Goal: create online activities that are less text-based and more visual so as to reach a broader base of learning styles.

What I Have Done So Far

I have created videos to accompany online activities to help students understand what is expected of them.

Expected Outcomes

- By contacting students as early as possible after they have signed up for my course, I can be sure they understand what an online course requires.
- Early contact will also allow me to provide students with an opportunity to become familiar with the technology they will be using as part of this course.
- Redesigning course activities to be more visual will help improve student understanding of the material.
- Successful implementation of the goals can be shared with other faculty teaching or planning on teaching languages online.
- The redesign of this course will be implemented in the 2011-2012 school year. Surveys will be taken of the students to assess the effectiveness of the new materials.

Related Software

QuickTime, Snapz Pro

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