Using Social Media for Learning and Teaching

When we started using social media as compared with tapping on tools available through a learning management system such as Blackboard, it “implies the need to carefully consider the risks of openness as well as need for ongoing communication with students in order to address their concerns and deal with issues in the use of social media as they arise”. These risks are counter-balanced by the benefits of open discussion and academic debate in authentic online environments.”[1] Authenticity being that not only does social media plays an important part in the daily life of the millennials but that it is also deem to be the networking platform for now and in the future.

Seeing that, we might want to consider using social media in learning to help students attain the most necessary and sought after skills to become an employable graduate and a global citizen. These capabilities encompass: [2]

- information literacy to navigating through the abundance amount of resource on the Internet
- prior knowledge of the potential and functionality of personal learning network (PLE) to then leverage on it as an independent learner for professional learning development (e.g. use hashtags to follow leaders in your field and participate in relevant conversations)
- thinking skills to analyse analytics for monitoring emerging trends.

Some of the common social networking platforms that are already embedded into student learning experience around the Faculty of Humanities include Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Socibd. Features in social media that are usually used to improve learning experience are posting announcements, gathering quick feedback, holding discussion and quick poll. To learn how to use some of the features on social media and grab ideas on how some teachers are using these platforms effectively, you can watch these YouTube clips:

- How to use Twitter [start from 5:18] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jWnPlvdocU
- How to use Facebook
  - Teach & Share: Teaching with Facebook https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6sbbAcGMes
- How to use Instagram [start from 6:31] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GV9XOlCc69E
- Using Hashtags (created via on social networks), Twitter List and Google Plus Community https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pEpQjKnPdw

The next two pages shows some examples of how schools and units in the Faculty are embedding social media into learning.


(A) Using Twitter

(Example from NETS1001 Web Communications unit, UC: Eleanor Sandry - School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry)

(B) Using Facebook

(Example from NETS2001 Writing on the Web unit, UC: Eleanor Sandry - School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry)
(C) Using Socibd

(Example from School of Design and Built Environment who uses e-Pinup, a customised version of Socibd).

To hear how Natalie and Hursh have been using this social networking platform to engage Architecture and Interior Architecture students, playback on their presentation during the Colloquium for Sharing of Best L&T Practices by clicking on this direct link [https://echo360.org.au/media/c38a36a1-59b4-403a-9504-919d57d1fdae/public](https://echo360.org.au/media/c38a36a1-59b4-403a-9504-919d57d1fdae/public) and fast forward to start at 22:48.)