

Curriculum Resources

On day 3 of the All-Cohort Reunion Liz shared some of the social media tools she uses to reduce administration and management burdens of her course - ENVIR500A at University of Washington. It is on Science Communication & The Media for upper level PhD students, taught as a 2-credit, 8 week short course each spring.

- To manage **office hour scheduling**, I use Tungle. Students are required to propose at least two options for me to choose among, they can only schedule 15 minute blocks, and they can't schedule it within two hours of when they propose the meeting. I control the available periods, and the system automatically avoids double-booking. It is synced to my iCal & Google calendar. See it here: www.tungle.me/LizNeeleyENVIR500 Elizabeth Wilson uses something similar with her Google Calendar, and because Tungle has been sold to RIM and its future is unclear, we're trying a new service called [ScheduleOnce](#), which works very similarly.
- In addition to the formal Catalyst coursewear I use to access class lists, submit grades, etc, I use this wiki as the **course management and interaction platform**. I chose to do this b/c student interaction was quite poor on the official system, and I wanted to give them more responsibility and freedom. See this year's course pages [here](#).
- I also require the students to sign up for an use **Twitter**. This facilitates fast, short, real-time interactions - reminders, instructions, and sharing resources. It also helps them understand the content of the course better, since we're discussing how the information ecosystem is changing.
- Finally, I want the students to get as much **feedback** and hands-on practice as possible, but particularly when doing on-camera interviews, this can be very time intensive. This year, I posted their videos to [Vimeo](#) - (you can access with password "cheesemonster" It's a class joke) - and then created a GoogleForm for them each to submit feedback about each interview as it happened. See the form [here](#). Output is a spreadsheet I could then parse and share with each student privately.