Interactive Teaching in Engineering:
Milestone-Based Assessment: An alternative strategy for assessing learning outcomes

Tuesday 27th July 2010
12.00pm – 1.30pm
Room G.11, Engineering - Civil and Mechanical Building

Engineering programs often feature units that contain a semester-long project, in which students are required to complete an extended piece of work throughout the full duration of the semester. The traditional model of assessment for such units is for students to present a series of demonstrations of intermediate stages throughout the semester.

This approach can lead to large amounts of high-stress productivity in the weeks leading up to the demonstrations. There is also a danger that this kind of burst-mode learning promotes shallow learning, rather than emphasizing deep learning outcomes.

This seminar will present an alternative assessment approach called ‘Milestone-Based Marking’ and discuss the challenges and rewards of this method. The Milestone approach changes the nature of the assessment from a purely summative process to a largely formative process. Students whose performances are borderline can be given specific feedback about what they need to do to reach the expected competency levels.

During this seminar, Dr Euan Lindsay will explore how this alternative assessment approach can assist students in the management of their workload and enable students to become more independent learners.

This lunchtime seminar will be led by

Dr Euan Lindsay
Dr Euan Lindsay is a Mechatronic Engineer. His PhD investigated whether remote and simulated access alternatives to the traditional in-person laboratory experience could provide the same learning outcomes for students.

Dr Lindsay’s work in remote and virtual laboratory classes has shown that there are significant differences, not only in student’s learning outcomes, but also in their perceptions of these outcomes when they are exposed to the different access modes. These differences have powerful implications for the design of remote and virtual laboratory classes in the future.

Currently, Dr Lindsay is a Senior Lecturer in Mechatronic Engineering at Curtin University of Technology.

Notes for participants
Numbers are limited so please register your attendance to Rita Armstrong on 6488 1242 or by email at rita.armstrong@uwa.edu.au.
Light lunch and refreshments will be provided.
Registration confirms your attendance at the seminars. You must provide a minimum of two days notice for cancellation.

Registration deadline
Friday, 23rd July 2010

Online Discussion about Online Learning
The next lunchtime seminar will be an ‘Online Discussion about Online Learning’ on Tuesday 10th August 2010. Details on this seminar will follow shortly.