

Student Perspectives: A General Education Math Class and Technology

Abstract:

A panel of students who took Math 1101 Introduction to Mathematical Modeling in Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 share will share their experiences in the class that used Excel and WebAssign extensively. WebAssign is a course management and tutorial system designed for use in mathematics and sciences. The panel moderator is Inessa Levi. Student presenters are majoring in the education, humanities, social sciences, pre-nursing and nursing.

The course is an introduction to mathematical modeling using graphical, numerical, symbolic and verbal techniques. The philosophical approach of the classes was to analyze real-world problems, create mathematical models to explore solutions of these problems, use technology to solve the models, and translate solutions of the models into terms understood by a non-specialist. Participation and continual engagement are critical in learning mathematics successfully, and using WebAssign supports regular graded work inside and outside of the classroom.