Thema Project: Reflective Survey June 2008

About this survey

Welcome! This is the second of the two online surveys that you have agreed to complete for the Thema project. It asks you to tell us about your general experience of the course, as well as the use that you, and your tutors, have made of digital technologies (i.e. computers, mobile phones, MP3 players and digital cameras, together with the programs and Websites that run on them).

The questions are divided into four sections (pages). Some require you to tick the response(s) closest to your opinion; others ask you to express your own thoughts. Questions marked * require an answer. If you leave any of these blank and click "Next Page," the current page will be redisplayed with a message in red above the unanswered question.

You need to allow at least 30-45 minutes to complete the survey. However, if you don't have time right now, then exit without answering any questions and come back later. If you encounter any problems when you're answering the questions, contact me at the email address below.

When you have finished…
Click the "Finish" button after the final question (NB Don't click the Cancel message or close this browser window as you'll lose everything that you have written).

Please complete the survey by Friday, 13th June.

Thank you,

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To start, click "Next Page" below.

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A. Reflections on your course

In this section we would like you to give us general feedback on your studies since October.

* 1. Please give your name:

* 2. In general terms, how has this year gone, in both your academic and social life? Has the experience lived up to your expectations?

* 3. Has the workload been more, or less, than you expected?

- ⌒ Much more than expected
- ⌒ A bit more than expected
- ⌒ About the same as expected
- ⌒ A bit less than expected
- ⌒ Much less than expected

What strategies have you used in order to manage your workload over the year?

* 4. Is the way in which you have been taught here similar to, or different from, your previous experience?

- ⌒ Similar to my previous experience
- ⌒ Different from my previous experience

If it's different, how has it differed, and how you adapted the way in which you study?

* **5. If your course included collaborative tasks (i.e. where tutors asked students to work in pairs or groups), do you feel these tasks benefited your learning more, or less, than when you did tasks on your own?**

  ◯ Collaborative tasks benefited my learning a lot more than individual tasks

  ◯ Collaborative tasks benefited my learning a bit more than individual tasks

  ◯ No particular difference

  ◯ Collaborative tasks benefited my learning a bit less than individual tasks

  ◯ Collaborative tasks benefited my learning a lot less than individual tasks

  ◯ We weren't asked to do any collaborative tasks

  Please feel free to clarify your response:

* **6. Roughly how much of the course reading list did you attempt to read (be honest!)?**

  ◯ 90% or more

  ◯ 60% to 90%

  ◯ 40% to 60%

  ◯ 10% to 40%

  ◯ 10% or less

  Please feel free to clarify your response:

* **7. How much has your tutors' feedback on your assignments given you a feeling for how well you are doing in your studies?**

  ◯ Very much

  ◯ Quite a bit

  ◯ Not very much

  ◯ Not at all

  Please feel free to clarify your response:

* **8. How easy has it been to meet with your tutor to discuss academic or personal matters?**

	Very easy	Quite easy	Not very easy	Not at all easy	I didn't try to consult my tutor	No opinion
Academic matters	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Personal matters	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

  Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 9. Looking back over your course, can you tell us about one significant learning experience that has stayed in your mind, and what made it memorable? It doesn't matter whether it happened during classes or outside them (i.e. during private study or leisure activities).

* 10. At what times of the day do you work best? You can tick more than one response.

- Morning (9 to 1)
- Afternoon (2 to 6)
- Evening (6 to 10)
- Night (10 until late!)

* 11. Please explain why these times suit you:

* 12. What are the drawbacks in working at these times? (e.g. libraries closed, crowded/noisy workspaces, friends unavailable)

* 13. When you're doing private study - i.e. not in class - do you mostly study:

- Alone
- In the company of a friend (or friends) from the same course
- In the company of a friend (or friends) who isn't on the same course
- With someone who isn't one of these

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 14. What do you plan to do after your course? If you already had an idea in October, has it changed since then and what influenced the change?

B. About the use of technology in your academic life

* 15. In general, how competent are your tutors in using computers and other digital technologies, compared with your own competence?

- Much more competent than me
- A bit more competent than me
- About as competent as me
- A bit less competent than me
- Much less competent than me

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 16. On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your tutors' use of technology on your course?

- 1 Very uninspiring; did not enhance our learning
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 Very creative; used technology in a way that really enhanced our learning

Please free to explain your rating, or to note any individual exceptions to it:

* 17. If you can, please give one example where a tutor used technology in an exciting or creative way (if you can't, just type "None" in this box):

18. The phrase "death by PowerPoint" is often mentioned, yet some tutors manage to use it in an inspirational way.

If _your_ tutors were to ask you how they could best use PowerPoint in your classes, how would you advise them?

* 19. Do you feel that your tutors gave you adequate information about the kinds of tools and software that would help you in your studies?

j∩ Yes

j∩ No

j∩ Not sure

Please feel free to clarify your response (e.g. did you ever find out too late about a Website or a piece of software that could have saved you time and effort?):

* 20. Do you feel that your course included adequate training on the different technologies that you were asked to use (e.g. SPSS)?

j∩ Yes

j∩ No

j∩ Not sure

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 21. When you conduct a literature search for an assignment (including your dissertation), which of these sources of references are you likely to use?

	Very likely: this is one of my top sources of information	Quite likely	Not very likely	Never use
The reading list for the course	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
Gateway sites: i.e. Websites offering lists of links to other sites on a particular subject	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
Library catalogue	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
Journal alerts: e.g. Zetoc, Informaworld	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
Bibliographical databases: e.g. PubMed, ERIC	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
General-purpose search engine: e.g. Google	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
Specialist search engine: e.g. Google Scholar	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
A personal list of references which I have built up during the course (e.g. on paper or in del.icious, EndNote, RefWorks or other online tools)	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
Browsing the library shelves to see what's there	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
Recommendations made by individual tutors	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩
Recommendations made by friends (e.g. if they find a reference they think would be useful to you)	j∩	j∩	j∩	j∩

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 22. Roughly speaking, what proportion of reading materials do you obtain online (incl. online versions of printed books and journals), and what proportion do you obtain from a "physical" source such as a library, bookshop, friend etc.?

(If you print an online document before reading it, count it as an <u>online</u> source.)

jn 100% online; 0% physical

jn Mostly online

jn About 50% online, 50% physical

jn Mostly physical

jn 0% online; 100% physical

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 23. When you obtain an online resource, how do you read it?

	Always or most of the time	Quite a lot	Sometimes	Rarely or never
Wholly on the screen	jn	jn	jn	jn
Scan it on-screen to see if it's interesting before I print it	jn	jn	jn	jn
Print it without looking at it on the screen first	jn	jn	jn	jn

C. About your personal use of technology

24. Do you know which operating system your computer has? (You can tick more than one answer if appropriate)

- ⊜ Windows XP or Windows Vista
- ⊜ Mac OS X
- ⊜ Other
- ⊜ I don't know/I don't have a computer

If you ticked "Other," which operating system is it?

[   ]

25. Given the choice between Windows and Mac (and the money to buy whatever computer you want!), which would you prefer, and why?

[   ]

* 26. If you have had a laptop for your personal use this year, can you tell us where you most often use it?

- ⌁ I carry it around with me during the day to classes etc.
- ⌁ I keep it in my room and use the university's computers during the day
- ⌁ Other
- ⌁ I have not had a laptop for my personal use

Please feel free to give your reasons for using your laptop in this way:

[   ]

* 27. Please indicate in general terms how you use the email addresses that you have. You can tick more than one box on each row if you need to.

	I use this address for communications about my studies	I use this address for personal and social purposes	I automatically forward (redirect) messages sent here to another address	I do not use this address/I do not have such an address
Departmental email address: e.g. @education.ox.ac.uk, @nds.ox.ac.uk	⊜	⊜	⊜	⊜
College email address: e.g. @green.ox.ac.uk	⊜	⊜	⊜	⊜
Email address at another university	⊜	⊜	⊜	⊜
Personal email address	⊜	⊜	⊜	⊜
Email address at your place of work	⊜	⊜	⊜	⊜

Please feel free to tell us more about how you use your different email accounts:

[   ]

* 28. Oxford has a very large Facebook network, and individual colleges, courses and societies have their own groups within it.

If you joined the Oxford Facebook network this year, can you describe briefly how you used it:
- to support your studies (e.g. through sharing resources with other students)
- to organise your social life

If you didn't join Facebook, what was it like to be outside it (e.g. did you get by perfectly well without it, or did you feel that you were missing out in any way)?

* 29. These are some of the things that our case-study students have said about Facebook. Please indicate the extent to which you agree with them:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	No particular opinion	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
It is a nice platform for staying in touch with one's friends in an easy manner.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
It is a huge distraction from one's studies.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
It should be accepted in the work place as a part of how society is evolving.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
It is boring and meaningless to play games or send gifts on Facebook.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn
It's OK for tutors and students to be in the same Facebook group.	jn	jn	jn	jn	jn

Please feel free to clarify your response:

30. It has been suggested that students should be able to access official University communications, and/or messages from their tutors, directly in Facebook. (To do so, you would add a special application to your Facebook account which would receive the communications.)

Do you think this is a good idea?

jn Yes

jn No

jn Not sure

Please feel free to clarify your response:

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* 31. When you put your personal information online, or buy something on the Web, there is a risk that someone will use it in a misleading or fraudulent way. How worried are you about this risk?

- ʝ⌐ Very worried
- ʝ⌐ Fairly worried
- ʝ⌐ Not very worried
- ʝ⌐ Not worried at all

Please feel free to clarify your response:

* 32. What steps do you take to protect your personal information in an online environment (be honest!)?

	Yes, I knowingly do this	No, I knowingly don't do this	I didn't know that I could do this
Before I disclose personal information or give my credit card number I check that the site is secure: i.e. there's a padlock icon in the bottom right hand corner of the web browser.	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐
Check the privacy statement of the site I'm using to see what I'm signing up and agreeing to.	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐
On social networking sites, use the "privacy" settings to determine who can view my profile and contact information.	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐
Set up an email address specifically for use on "social" sites, in order to minimise the amount of spam sent to my main email address.	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐
Set my browser to warn me when a cookie is installed and/or set my browser to block cookies.	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐
When I post photos of myself online, I only make them available to certain people; i.e. I don't let the general public see them.	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐
I use anti-virus software and keep it up to date.	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐
My personal policy is never to give any personal details to any Website.	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐	ʝ⌐

Please feel free to give any other views on the protection of personal information:

Finally in this section, we would like you to tell us about the 3 most useful, exciting or impressive tools or Websites which you started using during the course. It doesn't matter whether you have used them for your studies or for personal/social purposes: we're interested in everything. For example, they could be:
- Websites of resources for your subject
- "Productivity" tools e.g. EndNote, RefWorks, modelling tools or computer-aided design tools
- "Social" sites e.g. Facebook, Flickr, YouTube
- Hardware e.g. webcam, interactive whiteboard, portable digital dictionary

Leave the questions blank if nothing in particular has impressed you.

33. Tool/Website no. 1: Name and short description or Web address:

34. How did you find out about this tool?

- *j* From a tutor/lecturer

- *j* From another student on my course/in my college

- *j* I found it by myself (e.g. through searching in Google)

- *j* From another source (please tell us):

35. What do you like about it?

36. Tool/Website no. 2: Name and short description or Web address:

37. How did you find out about this tool?

- *j* From a tutor/lecturer

- *j* From another student on my course/in my college

- *j* I found it by myself (e.g. through searching in Google)

- *j* From another source (please tell us):

38. What do you like about it?

39. Tool/Website no. 3: Name and short description or Web address:

40. How did you find out about this tool?

- *j* From a tutor/lecturer

- *j* From another student on my course/in my college

- *j* I found it by myself (e.g. through searching in Google)

- *j* From another source (please tell us):

41. What do you like about it?

D. Social Software

In the first survey we asked you about your previous use of "social software" such as Facebook, Flickr, YouTube and Skype. In the final section of this survey we would like you to tell us whether this use has changed since October.

In response to the "using before the course" statements:
- Click Yes if the tool was an important part of your studies/and or personal life, even if you didn't use it very often. Otherwise, click No.

In response to the "using now" statements:
- Click Yes if the tool is an important part of your studies/and or personal life, even if you don't use it very often.
- Click No if you haven't used it at all, if you stopped using it, or if you tried it and decided that it wasn't for you.

* 42. Flickr, YouTube and other sites for storing and sharing media

	Yes	No
I was using such sites before the course	j	j
I use them now	j	j

* 43. Podcasts

	Yes	No
I listened to podcasts before the course	j	j
I listen to podcasts now	j	j

* 44. Wikis

	Yes	No
I had contributed to wikis before the course	j	j
I contribute to wikis now	j	j

* 45. Blogs written by other people

	Yes	No
I was reading other people's blogs before the course	j	j
I read other people's blogs now	j	j

* 46. Your own blog

	Yes	No
I had my own blog before the course	j	j
I write a blog now	j	j

* 47. Facebook and similar social networks

	Yes	No
I belonged to one before the course	j	j
I belong to one now	j	j

* 48. Social bookmarking tools e.g. del.icio.us, StumbleUpon, Furl

	Yes	No
I was using one before the course	j	j
I use one now	j	j

* 49. Online calendar e.g. Google Calendar, iCal, Yahoo Calendar

	Yes	No
I was using one before the course	j	j
I use one now	j	j

* 50. Internet telephony e.g. Skype, Ventrilo

	Yes	No
I was using it before the course	jn	jn
I use it now	jn	jn

* 51. Newsfeeds (RSS) which can be read on Websites, through a browser and/or through an aggregator (e.g. Bloglines, Google Reader):

	Yes	No
I was reading these before the course	jn	jn
I read them now	jn	jn

* 52. Chat or instant messaging e.g. MSN Messenger, Google Talk

	Yes	No
I was using it before the course	jn	jn
I use it now	jn	jn

* 53. Second Life

	Yes	No
I was using it before the course	jn	jn
I use it now	jn	jn

* 54. Multiplayer online games that you play over the Internet with other people: e.g. EverQuest, Eve, chess, Scrabulous

	Yes	No
I was playing such games before the course	jn	jn
I play such games now	jn	jn

55. Please feel free to comment further on your use of, or opinions on, social software: