iPods in Economics? Technology for Enhancing Active Learning[1]

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Abstract

Increasingly we see students walking around campuses with some sort of mobile media-- either chatting on a cell phone or "plugged in"-- with ubiquitous earbuds attached to an iPod. A handful of campuses have actively embraced this technology by supplying entering students with iPods. This paper discusses educational uses for Podcasting and illustrates the uses of iPods, or more generally MP3 technology in economics classes.

Employing this technology in economics courses allows more classroom time for active learning assignments, projects, and discussions. The technology may also enhance active learning through specifically created assignments or projects. Using mobile listening and viewing devices allows students to explore course contents and undertake projects at a place and time of their choice.* Since delivery of Podcasts is through computer downloads, students who do not own MP3 devices can access information on PCs at home or in computer labs.

Keywords
Podcasting, mobile media, iPod, MP3, listening to learn, pedagogy

Podcast Available @

http://www.facstaff.bucknell.edu/jshackel/pod/AEAPod/

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 into your iTunes library of Podcasts on your computer. (You may download iTunes at <http://apple.com>). In iTunes; Select Podcasts; Refresh (bottom right hand corner); scroll to AEAPod, iPods in Economics, load onto your iPod or MP3 player and listen. Podcast

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* While the focus of this paper is Podcasting, music clips, lyrics, video clips, slides of advertising, architecture, images, graphs, etc., may also be added to iPods as supplementary content.