



▶ **Did You Know?**

CUOL IS NOW ON FACEBOOK! CHECK US OUT, AND 'LIKE' US TO GET UPDATES ON CONTESTS, NEW COURSE AVAILABILITIES, AND LINKS TO EACH MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.



▶ **Did You Know?**

CUOL OFFERS AN EXAM INVIGILATION SERVICE TO POST SECONDARY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. THIS YEAR MORE THAN 1200 STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS HAVE TAKEN EXAMS AT CUOL.



▶ **WANT TO GET THE VOD SERVICE?**

REGISTRATION IN CARLETON CENTRAL HAS CLOSED, BUT YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP FOR VOD THROUGH THE CUOL WEBSITE IN ORDER TO WATCH YOUR LECTURES ONLINE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE. GO TO [HTTPS://VOD.CUOL.CA/REGISTRATION](https://vod.cuol.ca/registration) AND SIGN IN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.



# Online focus

According to Ontario's famous groundhog meteorologists, spring will be coming early this year! In the wintery meantime, CUOL sends you our love for Valentine's Day later this month.

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## Professor Profile

Last fall we featured professor Bruce Tsuji and his plans to make it possible for distance students to ask questions – and get answers – during a live broadcast CUOL class. Now with the first semester down, we catch up with Tsuji to see how the experiment went, and what he's got planned next.

Unless you're at a group therapy session and everyone is taking turns sharing their feelings, it's rare that in a group – especially a large group – each and every person is going to be putting in their two cents. In classrooms, 100 per cent participation is practically unheard of. Predictably, this pattern extends to Bruce Tsuji's groundbreaking new push to engage distance students.

Since September he has been using the online, anonymous polling site [polleverywhere.com](http://polleverywhere.com) to solicit questions from his students in realtime, during his PSYC 1001 (and now 1002 in winter semester) class. The online software also allows him to take surveys and show the anonymous responses come in on the big screen.

Out of the 700 or so students (both in-class and distance), about 100 have been using the technology, estimates Tsuji. For one class in late January, he tallied 91 questions received throughout the class.

"Overall, it went well," Tsuji says, though he admits he was surprised that more students have not taken advantage.

"I think the fact that they have the option at all is one thing that makes them feel a little bit more in touch with the class, and with the course. It's not something I can take to the bank, but I do think it's a positive result."

And from the bits and pieces of informal feedback that students have given him so far, that theory seems to hold true. One student from the western United States met Tsuji during his online office hours and confessed that while he hadn't yet used the service to text in a question, he enjoyed having the option available.

Even the in-class students seem to be using it. [Polleverywhere.com](http://Polleverywhere.com) doesn't disclose the location of each text it receives, but Tsuji says that just from reading some of them he gets the sense that they originated from within the physical lecture hall. Which isn't a bad thing.

"To put up your hand in a classroom with 299 other people is a little intimidating," Tsuji says. Especially in a first year class when most students are just emerging from their shell.

Of course not every participant is going to take it seriously – there have been some students who have taken liberties with the anonymous nature of the exercise – but Tsuji says that for every student that does find value in it, everything is made worthwhile.

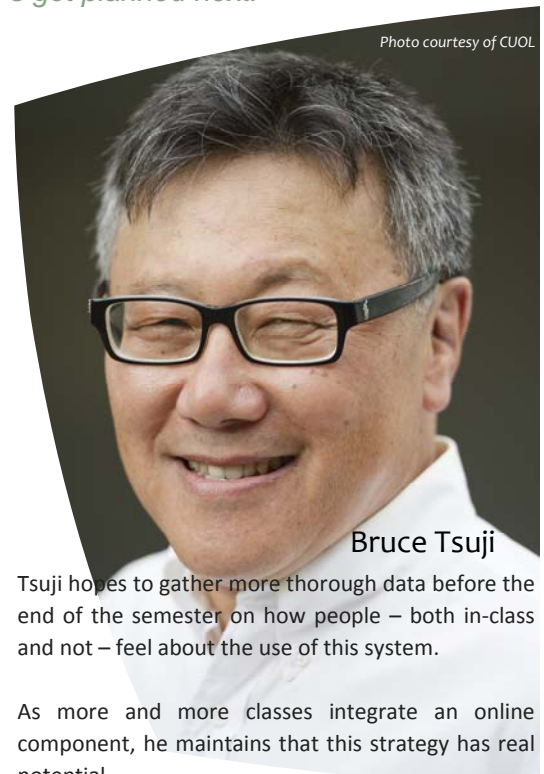


Photo courtesy of CUOL

Bruce Tsuji

Tsuji hopes to gather more thorough data before the end of the semester on how people – both in-class and not – feel about the use of this system.

As more and more classes integrate an online component, he maintains that this strategy has real potential.

"People need to feel a part of a learning community," he says. "We've obviously got the technology to push PowerPoint presentations out to a few thousand people, but I don't think we've really wrapped our heads around how to make those thousands of people feel like they're a part of something. And I think that's a crucial ingredient to any kind of effective learning experience."

Bruce Tsuji teaches PSYC 1001 & 1002  
Sample Lecture: <http://tinyurl.com/8u5gfqh>

# TechCorner



Photo courtesy of www.cultofmac.com

## This month's feature: **SKY PEN**

Do you appreciate the conveniences of technology but still prefer that satisfying feel of writing on paper? Then you might be interested to learn about the Sky pen. As one online reviewer described it: "calling the new *Livescribe Sky* a pen is like calling your *iPhone 5* a phone."

What this so-called pen does is wirelessly send all your handwritten notes to your *Evernote* account (p.s., you need an *Evernote* account), with accompanying audio recording. Say you want to re-hear what the prof said at one particular point in class, and your notes aren't quite up to snuff. You could simply tap on that part of your notes and your device would replay the audio from that exact spot. Very useful. Not to mention your notes and audio are then synced and available on any device you have downloaded the free *Evernote* app.

There is also a bunch of add-ons you could get, such as special headphones which allow you to record audio from a phone conversation, or partner software which can turn your handwriting to text.

There are downsides, however. The biggest one being price. The sky pen is available at most major tech stores such as *Staples* and *Best Buy*, but the 2GB version will set you back about \$170. In addition, it only works when you're writing on *Livescribe's* special micro-dot paper. They've got a wide variety of journals/notebooks on offer that are comparable in price to regular paper products, or you can also just print off the pages yourself using a color laser printer, but it's still something to keep in mind.

They've also got the refurbished pens of the last model (the *Echo*, which doesn't have wi-fi and transfers notes/audio via USB to desktop software rather than *Evernote*), on offer star-

# Tales from the Field

*This Ukrainian-born CUOL student finds that his online courses give him the freedom to pursue his other passions, such as being among the best judo wrestlers in the country.*

Photo courtesy of E. Sheykhislyamov



Emin Sheykhislyamov

When Emin Sheykhislyamov came to Carleton, he was initially skeptical of CUOL. He and his family had just moved to Canada from the Ukraine a year before, and it was his experience that if you weren't in class, you didn't get the grades.

It was 2009 – his first year – and he was getting registration help from the university. The assistant helped him compile a pretty workable schedule, he says, but there was one problem: one of his classes conflicted with his chemistry tutorial.

"She said, 'you'll have to take a VOD,'" Emin remembers. "I wasn't sure how it would work."

Luckily, Emin didn't find there was much of a difference from being in class. He enjoyed being able to get perfect notes every time, and he would download the lectures onto his *iPod* and watch them during the long commute from his home in Gatineau. Then, come weekend, he'd watch them again – this time while taking notes. He reckons the built-in review drastically reduced his study time. His marks didn't degrade like he'd suspected; in fact they were actually higher in a number of his online courses.

ting at \$70, if you're really interested but can't bring yourself to spend the admittedly outrageous price for a pen.

Another possible downside is the pen's bulkiness. The part you hold isn't too much different from a permanent marker but for people with small hands, it might get tiresome to write with for extended periods of time.

He quickly realized the importance of staying up to date with the weekly lectures. But Emin was used to self-discipline. He was one of the top Judo wrestlers in the country, having just won the Junior Canadian Judo Championships the previous summer.

With an average of three hours a day of training, "I knew that I didn't have time to spare."

Skipping ahead to present day, Emin's training schedule isn't quite as rigorous as it used to be but he is still very involved in the sport. He moved with his family to Toronto last May so they could open a judo club where he says there was more of a market. He spends his time coaching for his dad (who spent years competing on the former USSR National Judo team) and training with the high performance Ontario team, while also finishing up his three-year biology degree at Carleton via distance. His is onto his tenth CUOL course.

Since moving from the Ukraine, Emin says he has found Canada to be "better in every measurable way." Happily, CUOL has been a part of that good experience

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The gist of the matter is that the sky pen is an incredible gadget that is swifter and sleeker than the competition, and could revolutionize how you take notes and sketch. But it is a lot of money, and it would probably only be worth it if you're a hard-core paper loyalist who would use it almost daily.

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# CUOL Habitat



Hey CUOL'ers,

Where do you watch YOUR lectures? At a coffeshop? On the couch? In bed? No matter where it is, we want to know. Send in a picture of you in your "CUOL habitat" with a 50-word description of you and your special class viewing spot, and if we publish it in our newsletter, we'll send you a free CUOL memorabilia (a *toque*, a *USB* and a *pen*)!



## Campus Connection - Modern U

*Carleton has a beautiful campus (in our humble opinion). It's green, bordered by waterways, and features some great modern architecture. But the best parts of the campus lead back to all the events that happen there. With this new section of the newsletter, CUOL will try to show distance students the school that they're connected to, and give our local students taking online courses some cool ideas for things to do. This week, we feature an online exhibition which the Carleton University Art Gallery has showcased on their website.*

Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it. So said Confucius. Well the guys who created "Modern U" saw beauty in Carleton, and they wanted to share it. Modern U is an award-winning website that originally accompanied Adrian Gollner's 2003 outdoor art installation exploring the modern architecture of Carleton University. Designed by Patrick Côté, the site "explores the social aspiration and utopian ideals inherent in the late modern architecture of Carleton University."

Once inside the interactive website, viewers can wend their way through Carleton's various hot spots, exploring history and the meaning behind the architects' methods. From the main quad to the Unicentre, a few select spots have been singled out and analyzed, as well as illustrated with old photographs and original blueprints.

While it would be nice if the pictures were a little

bigger, Modern U is a nice interactive that delves beneath Carleton's concrete skin to the heart beating beneath it. Check it out on CUAG's web site here:

<http://tinyurl.com/ajye5uu>

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## CUOL around the world!

*From Australia to Saudi Arabia, Carleton's distance students are tuning in to their classes through CUOL. Check out all the countries they come from!*



Honduras, Barbados, Australia, UK, Guyana, Germany, Philippines, Greece, and Saudi Arabia



CUOL is now on *Facebook*! Check us out, and 'like' us to get updates on contests, new course availabilities, and links to each month's newsletter. Got a question? We'll be monitoring our timeline regularly and will get back to you faster than you can say 'distance education!' Link with us at;

<http://tinyurl.com/bjnomh>



# CUOL Winter 2013 Midterm Exam Schedule

## WINTER TERM COURSES (JANUARY-FEBRUARY)

LOCAL EXAMS (Carleton Campus)		TORONTO (Seneca College) For Distance students only!		HAMILTON (Academy of Learning) For Distance Students only!	
COURSE	FINAL EXAM DATES/LOCATIONS	COURSE	FINAL EXAM DATES/TIMES	COURSE	FINAL EXAM DATES/TIMES
BIOL 1902 T	Saturday, February 9, 2013- 11:00	BIOL 1902 T	Saturday, February 9, 2013- 9:00	BIOL 1902 T	Saturday, February 9, 2013 - 10:00
BIOL 2903 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 17:30	BIOL 2903 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	BIOL 2903 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 10:00
BUSI 1003 T	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	BUSI 1003 T	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	BUSI 1003 T	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 10:00
BUS 1402 T	Saturday, February 2, 2013- 9:00	BUS 1402 T	Saturday, February 2, 2013- 9:00	BUS 1402 T	Saturday, February 2, 2013- 10:00
CHEM 1002 T	#1- Friday, February 8, 2013- 18:30 #2- Friday, March 8, 2013- 18:30	CHEM 1002 T	#1- Friday, February 8, 2013- 18:00 #2- Friday, March 8, 2013- 18:00	CHEM 1002 T	#1- Friday, February 8, 2013- 12:00 #2- Friday, March 8, 2013- 12:00
CHEM 2303 T	Lab Test- Saturday, January 19, 2013- 9:00 #1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 9:00 #2- Saturday, March 16, 2013- 9:00	CHEM 2303 T	Lab Test- Saturday, January 19, 2013- 9:00 #1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 9:00 #2- Saturday, March 16, 2013- 9:00	CHEM 2303 T	Lab Test- Saturday, January 19, 2013- 10:00 #1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 10:00 #2- Saturday, March 16, 2013- 10:00
ERTH 1009 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 14:00	ERTH 1009 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	ERTH 1009 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 10:00
ERTH 1011 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 14:00	ERTH 1011 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	ERTH 1011 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 10:00
ERTH 2403 V	#1- Saturday, February 9, 2013- 13:00 #2- Saturday, March 16, 2013- 13:00	ERTH 2403 V	#1- Saturday, February 9, 2013- 9:00 #2- Saturday, March 16, 2013- 9:00	ERTH 2403 V	#1- Saturday, February 9, 2013- 10:00 #2- Saturday, March 16, 2013- 10:00
ERTH 2415 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	ERTH 2415 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	ERTH 2415 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 10:00
FINS 3105 V	#1- Saturday, March 9, 2013- 10:00 #2- Saturday, March 23, 2013- 10:00	FINS 3105 V	#1- Saturday, March 9, 2013- 9:00 #2- Saturday, March 23, 2013- 9:00	FINS 3105 V	#1- Saturday, March 9, 2013- 10:00 #2- Saturday, March 23, 2013- 10:00
LAWS 2302 V	Friday, March 1, 2013- 18:00	LAWS 2302 V	Friday, March 1, 2013- 18:00	LAWS 2302 V	Friday, March 1, 2013- 12:00
NEUR 3204 V	#1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 14:00 #2- Saturday, March 9, 2013- 14:00	NEUR 3204 V	#1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 9:00 #2- Saturday, March 9, 2013- 9:00	NEUR 3204 V	#1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 10:00 #2- Saturday, March 9, 2013- 10:00
PHYS 1902 V	Friday, March 1, 2013- 19:00	PHYS 1902 V	Friday, March 1, 2013-18:00	PHYS 1902 V	Friday, March 1, 2013- 12:00
PYSC 1001 T	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 19:00	PYSC 1001 T	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	PYSC 1001 T	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 10:00
PSYC 1002 V	#1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 11:30 #2- Saturday, March 2, 2013- 11:30	PSYC 1002 V	#1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 9:00 #2- Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	PSYC 1002 V	#1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 10:00 #2- Saturday, March 2, 2013- 10:00
PSYC 2002 V/ NEUR 2002 V	#1- Sunday, February 3, 2013- 13:00 #2- Sunday, March 10, 2013- 13:00	PSYC 2002 V/ NEUR 2002 V	#1- Monday, February 4, 2013- 18:00 #2- Monday, March 11, 2013- 18:00	PSYC 2002 V/ NEUR 2002 V	#1- Monday, February 4, 2013- 9:00 #2- Monday, March 11, 2013- 9:00
PSYC 2100 V	Friday, March 1, 2013- 18:30	PSYC 2100 V	Friday, March 1, 2013- 18:00	PSYC 2100 V	Friday, March 1, 2013- 12:00
PSYC 2200 V/ NEUR 2200 V	#1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 14:00 #2- Saturday, March 9, 2013- 14:00	PSYC 2200 V/ NEUR 2200 V	#1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 9:00 #2- Saturday, March 9, 2013- 9:00	PSYC 2200 V/ NEUR 2200 V	#1- Saturday, February 2, 2013- 10:00 #2- Saturday, March 9, 2013- 10:00
PSYC 2400 V	Saturday, February 9, 2013- 9:00	PSYC 2400 V	Saturday, February 9, 2013- 9:00	PSYC 2400 V	Saturday, February 9, 2013- 10:00
PSYC 2500 V	Saturday, February 9, 2013- 18:00	PSYC 2500 V	Saturday, February 9, 2013- 9:00	PSYC 2500 V	Saturday, February 9, 2013- 10:00
PSYC 3403 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 14:00	PSYC 3403 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	PSYC 3403 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 10:00
PSYC 3604 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 11:30	PSYC 3604 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 9:00	PSYC 3604 V	Saturday, March 2, 2013- 10:00
SOWK 2502 V	Friday, March 8, 2013- 18:00	SOWK 2502 V	Friday, March 8, 2013- 18:00	SOWK 2502 V	Friday, March 8, 2013- 12:00
TSES 3002 V	Saturday, March 9, 2013- 9:00	TSES 3002 V	Saturday, March 9, 2013- 9:00	TSES 3002 V	Saturday, March 9, 2013- 10:00
FULL CREDIT COURSE	MIDTERM EXAM SCHEDULE	FULL CREDIT COURSE	MIDTERM EXAM SCHEDULE	FULL CREDIT COURSE	MIDTERM EXAM SCHEDULE
ECON 1000 V	N/A	ECON 1000 V	N/A	ECON 1000 V	N/A
LAWS 1000 V	N/A	LAWS 1000 V	N/A	LAWS 1000 V	N/A

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