CAMS (A Community/Course Online System designed with you in mind)

There are many online class management systems available, most are not participant (student) centric. We have developed a course management system that emphasizes the student and their needs, simplicity of use, modularity, expandability and allowing the student to be an integral part of the system (not just a user of or lurker in the system). The system includes:

- A main page for a class including
  - the most recent class announcement,
  - a link to all announcements
  - information on each student including
    - their picture,
    - phonetic spelling of their name,
    - a link to their web presence,
    - a link to information about themselves
    - their email address.
    - They can update all of the above information
  - what’s new
    - Displays assignments that have been added or modified in the last day or is due within the next two days
    - Displays notes that have been added or modified in the last day
    - Displays Modules that have been added or modified in the last day
    - Displays Personal events that will occur in the next two days
    - This displays all of the above for all communities you are in

- A complete grading program including grade import, export and weighted grades, rubric or criteria based grading
  - can grade 1 test at a time or 1 question for all students at a time.
  - Students are able to view their answer, points given for the question feedback and one or more correct answers

- Chat
  - including pictures of students online
  - the picture of the student is displayed with each message
  - each message is displayed with a number so when a student references the message they can refer to the number of the message

- A calendar is built in that allows
  - the student to keep their personal events online
  - all assignments and schedule events for all classes they are enrolled in are automatically added to the calendar.
  - faculty can share events with the students.
    - On the students calendar the events are shown along with the faculty's picture.
  - The calendar spans all classes a student or faculty is in.

- A bookmarks or favorites feature is also available.
  - Each class has a favorites area that both the students and faculty can add areas and links to.
  - All links are displayed with the picture of the person that added the link.
• When a class is to be used for the next semester the dates of assignments, notes etc. are adjusted automatically to the new semester.
• Project management including file upload/download
  o Students can add a project group
  o Students can join a project group
  o Users can search multiple project for notes pertaining to a specific topic
• Book/Disk/Miscellaneous checkout system

These are only a small number of the many unique features contained in Community/course Action-interaction Management System (CAMS).

As we continue to develop the system we seek feedback from students and faculty as to what would be more useful to them. The system was designed to use off the shelf software and be extremely easy to use. It was also designed to be easily expandable. The product was originally written in ASP and used Microsoft SQL-Server for the database backend. It has been totally re-written and is now developed around a My-sql database and includes a set of PHP pages that are placed on the web and interact with the database. The whole system can be installed on one server and is usually up and running in less than 20 minutes. The system is now being beta-tested in several locations. We are looking for other groups to beta-test our system and help us improve the system.