Using digital technologies to create flexible learning pathways for adult learners

Nuala McGuinn
@nualamcg01

#eua2016 come to our session tomorrow- digitalisation from the trenches

"Online technologies provide opportunities to learn anywhere, anytime and from anyone. This flexibility is essential for non-traditional learners and will enable a shift change in the engagement of higher education institutions in lifelong learning and continuing professional development."

Report to the European Commission on new modes of learning and teaching in higher education – October 2014

Online Courses @ NUI Galway

Business - Management
10%

Healthcare
10%

Languages
11%

Humanities & Social Science
42%

ITonline
3%

Nursing
12%

Science & Technology
12%

www.nuigalway.ie/onlinelearning

Teaching & Learning – Lifelong learning focus

FOCUS

- Continuing
- Professional
- Personal
- Development

Approach – Learning Design

- Blended learning
- Fully on-line
- On-campus and outreach

Flexible learning options

- Modular
- Short and longer term awards
- Continuing education - CPD

Investment outcomes

- Diverse student population
- Employability V life-long learners
- Engaging with industry and communities
- Professional Transferable Skills (PTS)
- Authentic Learnng: Project placements, work-based training

Diploma in Archaeology

Learning Cycle

- Fully online
- 8 week modules (6)
- Readings and viewings
- Weekly discussion reports
- Self assessment activities
- Discussion forum
- End of module written assignment

Metal and Warriors (Bronze and Iron Age)

1516-AR8101: Metal and Warriors: Bronze and Iron Age Ireland

- Home Page
- Course Information
- Learning Outcomes
- Content
- Discussion Board
- James Hardiman Library
- Turnitin Essays
- My Grades
- Course Evaluation
- Calendar

- Unit 2 Bronze Age settlement and economy
- Unit 3 Bronze Age artefacts and technology
- Unit 4 Bronze Age ritual and religion
- Unit 5 Iron Age Ireland
- Unit 6 Iron Age artefacts and technology

Visual Content

4.9 Wedge tombs

The wedge tombs of the western half of Ireland demonstrate the continuing importance of megalithic tombs in ritual and funerary practice towards the end of the 3rd millennium BC and early in the 2nd millennium BC.

Distribution map of wedge tombs, wedge tomb, wedge tomb reconstruction drawing.

Over 540 examples are known, making these tombs the most common of Ireland's megalithic tombs (approximately one-third of the total). Many examples consist of a relatively narrow, wedge shape or trapezoidal stone chamber, which decreases both in height and width from front to rear. The chamber is constructed of orthostats and roofed with one or more capstones, usually resting directly on the side stones. Some wedge tombs have a

Discussion Forum

04/12/15 03:30	Week 4 - Kevin
03/12/15 23:19	What was the role of the natural landscape in Bronze Age ritual practice in Ireland?
03/12/15 22:01	What was the role of the natural landscape in Bronze Age ritual practice in Ireland?
03/12/15 21:23	Module 2 Unit 4
03/12/15 19:15	Week 4 report
03/12/15 15:15	What was the role of the natural landscape in Bronze Age ritual practice in Ireland?

Readings and Viewings

Read:

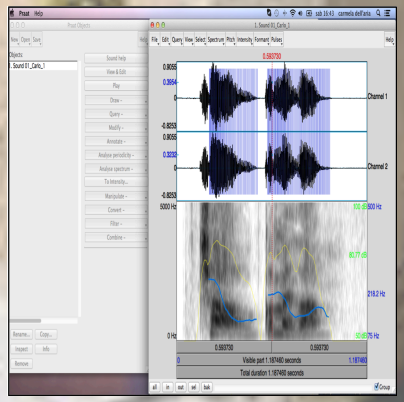
Waddell, J. 2010 *The Prehistoric Archaeology of Ireland*. Dublin, Wordwell.

Watch:

2012 Animation of a laser scan survey of Drombeg Stone Circle, Glandore, Co. Cork. Surveyed using a Faro Focus 120 scanner by the Discovery Programme as part of the 3D-ICONS project.

Diploma in Italian

- Elearning language course for absolute beginners & intermediate option 2015;
- Fully online & blended option
- Creating a collaborative environment for the development of all four linguistics skills: reading writing, listening;
- Where linguistics and technology meet;
- Speech analysis software (Praat)



Levels of interactivity

Synchronous

- Group work native speakers
- Conversation, role plays
- BB collaborate

Individual Lab

- listening, imitating, reproduction
- Praat

Interactions

Group Work Lab

- Podcasts, wikis, videocasts

Discussion Form

- Student-student
- Student – tutor

LEARNING UNIT PROCESS - SENTENCE LEVEL

Exercises on intonational pattern, pitch accents, word stress.

Practice sentences with PRAAT: visual & auditory in the form of digitized versions of sentences.

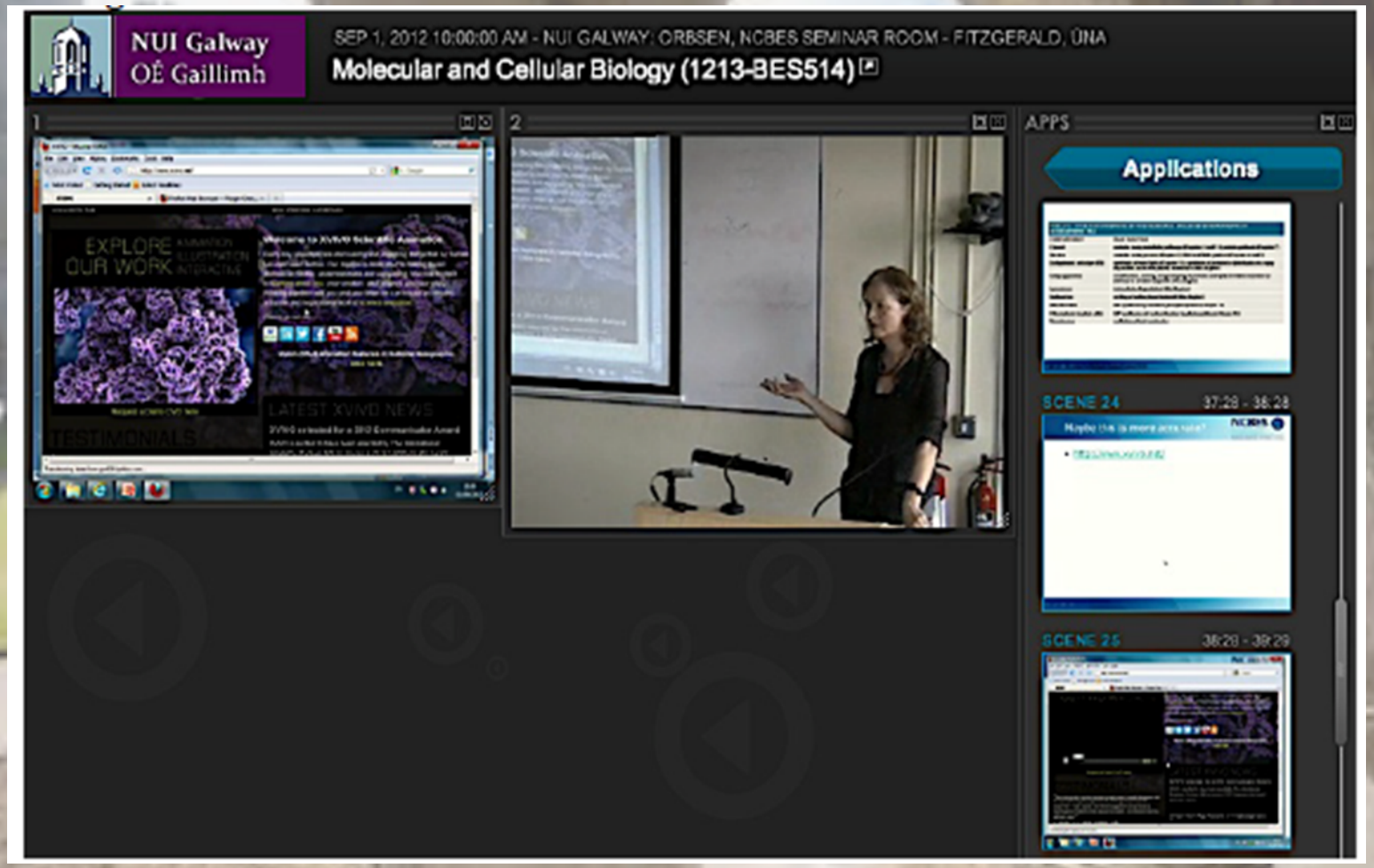
Listen, watch the intonation curve, and imitate the target sentence.

Record and digitize repetitions through PRAAT.

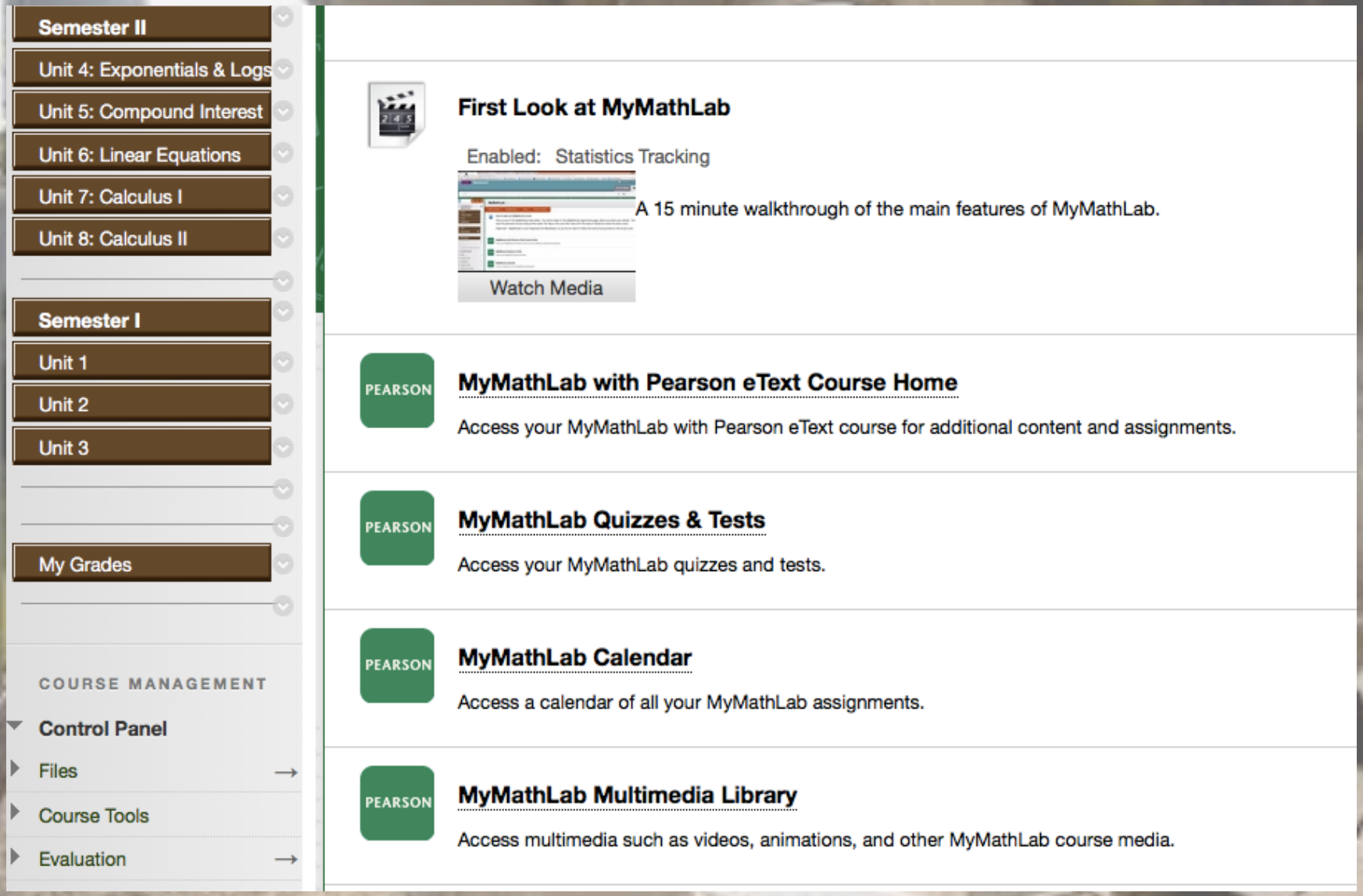
Early Childhood Studies & Practice

- Blended learning programme
- Work-based project (Yrs 1-4)
- **Personal reflective journal** - develop skills as a reflective practitioner and critical reflection
- Demonstrate:
  - **professional transferable skills** related to early years care
  - **apply theories** introduced in various modules to the work place
- Facilitated and managed through the journal feature in BB
- COIL Learning Activity – Use of Technology in Early Years Setting

Echo 360 Lecture Capture System



Online Learning Resources



Using Videos

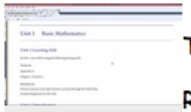
Lecture 1.2

Watch Media

This lecture lasts about 17 minutes and covers the second section in Appendix A.
Take a quick look at this in the book. If you are reasonably comfortable with multiplying algebraic formulas, you can just skim through this one.
Recommended exercises: 9 - 26 (page 919). Do a few of these, and a couple of 35 - 38.

Lecture 1.3

Enabled: Statistics Tracking



Watch Media

This lecture covers the first part of Chapter 1, Section 1.

Running time: 20 minutes.

Lecture 1.4

Enabled: Statistics Tracking

Watch Media

This lecture covers the second (and last) part of Chapter 1, Section 1.
Apart from the Excel example below, this completes Unit 1.

Running time: 18 minutes.

Other approaches

- Podcasts
- Online MCQs
- Discussion Forums
- Skills for learning
- Collaboration

Building Capacity - challenges

- Broad tutor base: 90% are part-time tutors
- Up-skilling tutors in the various educational technologies
- Building confidence levels
- Range of skills required: academic, educational technologies, multi-media development
- Administrative resources required to support students
- Development costs and timelines for development

Further Information

- **Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development**
  www.nuigalway.ie/adultlearning

- **Online Learning at NUI Galway**
  www.nuigalway.ie/onlinelearning

- **Nuala McGuinn**
  Email: Nuala.mcguinn@nuigalway.ie

Acknowledgements

This presentation provided examples of best practice from programmes run by the following course directors:

- Dr. Laura McLoughlin – Diploma in Italian
- Dr. Michelle Comber – Diploma in Archaeology
- Dr. Una Fitzgerald – MSc Biomedical Science
- Dr. Ray Ryan – B. Comm (Maths module)
- Dr. Sheila Garrity – BA Early Childhood Studies & Practice