# Trabalho No 3: M.C.E: Meios Computacionais no Ensino 2012

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## What have you learned in a webinar?

A webinar is an educational video that replace or enrich studies at university. There are programs of some universities, to gain free excess to the seminars from the web. There are different kinds of these web seminars. One possibility is, just to film a seminar and upload it to the internet, so that students can recapitulate their studies. Another option is to create videos that are specially made for a web seminar and replace the actual lessons at university. These Web seminars are working often together with other media for example like websites. A third possibility for a web seminar is web conferencing. This is a conversation over the internet with programs like Skype where the teacher and students can interact. This avoids the static media of a video that is just being watched.

For myself, I never had a web seminar at my university, but in terms of this course I saw a few web seminars on a website, that offers seminars from famous universities like for example MIT or Oxford (http://lecturefox.com/). I also saw a webinar about the program Modellus in Portuguese but it was harder to understand it. But the method of combine the given explanations with the video is very useful and makes it for the student easier to understand. I think that especially web seminars or video tutorials about programs are very useful, because one can easily follow the steps and repeat it directly on their computer.

Apart from that, I chose some webinars about my subject’s philosophy and mathematics. So I began to see seminars about “Love in western philosophy” and “Differential Equations”. Because these seminars are just filmed seminars from the universities, it takes a lot of time to get through all of these videos; because one seminar consists of a lot of sessions and each session is about two hours. More useful are the web seminars that are made for online lections. Either way, it is a very good thing, that one has the possibility can watch seminars about these subjects for free in the internet.

## How I imagine future lessons at university/school?

Of course, in the century of internet and computers the idea of spreading lessons all over the internet to give a huge among of people the access to education is a very simple and noble idea. The method of online lectures is already commune in a lot of universities which are offering these kinds of lectures in addition to their normal lectures. First of all I want to list some points that, for me, are symbolizing positive and negative aspects of online lectures

Negative:

* No direct conversation/interaction between teacher and student
* Other students are missing
* Student has no strict place and organization of his studies
* Student has no possibilities to ask questions and ask for deeper explanations in a topic
* Very strict and organized from the teacher, where the student is left alone with his studies an interests

Positives:

* Student can organize his studies of its own
* Can view the lecture multiple times/ can take the time to study the things he doesn`t understand
* Probably a huge diversity of lectures, probably good for the interests of a student
* Students can pick seminars in the internet, that are not related to their original studies and expand their horizons
* Every student can learn as fast as and when he likes
* There are some aspects of this web lectures that are quite interesting. It`s possible to spread lectures around the world with various themes but in my opinion I prefer the interaction between the student and the teacher, where the student can ask the teacher questions if he doesn`t understand or if he wants to go into one topic more deeply. The teacher can also react to the feedback of the students and change styles of teaching.

Depart from these points the kind of lectures is playing a role in the discussion about online lectures. If the lectures are just lectures in university, that are filmed from the back one can compare these lectures with the lessons at school, where the teacher just staying at the front of the class and is telling them the things they have to know without any interaction. But the internet offers a lot of possibilities to add to the normal lecture videos a didactical worthy component, as for example exercises, educational games, quiz and other stuff. So the lecture can get interesting and thrilling.

The problem stays that on online actions there`s no interaction between the teacher and the student and, which is more important, between the student and other students. In some blogs there`re forums where the students can have discussions and answer each other questions, that have to do with the online lectures, but in my opinion this can`t replace the real face-to-face interaction of students. Another problem the students might have is their self-organizing. They have to learn how they manage their time to get over all their studies. This might be hard for a lot of students, but to learn how to organize their time might be an ability that is quite useful in their live.

All in all, the lessons in future will use a lot more media, compared to today. Computer will be a normal part of it and a lot of things that were done by pen and pencil will be replaced by computer, software, whiteboard and beamer. And probably online lectures are a great opportunity to increase the style and diversity of teaching.