Virtual Classroom

What is it?
UQ’s virtual classroom is a web conferencing tool that enables a group of people to work together in real time online. The virtual classroom provides the ability to interact and collaborate in real time with other participants in the course using voice, text chat, shared desktops, whiteboards and cameras while physically separate.

What could you do?
Virtual classrooms like physical classrooms can be used for an incredible range of activities, such as:
- group discussions
- break out group activities (in break out rooms)
- practical demonstrations (of software/tools/procedures)
- peer presentations
- collaborative drawing
- eliciting audience responses through polls (clickers style), surveys and comments
- delivering lecture content
- accessing multimedia (YouTube videos/audio clips)
- playing games and using simulations
- research or practicum student supervision
- recording live sessions

Tips
Plan, prepare and get help (if you can). While many of these activities are similar to face-to-face activities, there is the additional challenge of running the technology of the virtual classroom as well. Plan to engage students. While the virtual classroom is like a real classroom it is easier for students to feel disconnected. Consider activities (polls, Q&A, small group breakouts, brainstorming ideas using a whiteboard or note; discussion questions) to keep students active.

For a meeting of more than 50 people you may need to book a virtual seminar room through the ITS helpdesk.

Peer presentations tips:
- Have students provide their PowerPoint slides.
- Use the stage lights pod to keep time.
- Use to-do list for an outline or to show the marking criteria.
- Use polls to provide peer feedback use one poll for each marking criteria to have peers assess a presentation in real time.

Make classes more interesting:
- Use star rating to rate each presenter (overall rating).
- Text chat or notes pods can be used to give text comments.