



Podcasting at Hunter

What is podcasting?

Podcasting is a method of publishing media files, such as audio or video, to the Internet. You can subscribe to podcasts using “podcatcher” software, such as iTunes or Juice. Once you subscribe to a podcast feed, new episodes are automatically downloaded to your computer. Podcast episodes can then be played on computers or MP3 players. An iPod is NOT needed to play podcasts. Video-podcasts are also called “vodcasts.”

Podcasting can be an efficient way to deliver content because podcast episodes are portable and can be played offline. The audio and sometimes video material on podcasts can be perceived as being more personal. The convenience of subscribing only once to a feed of your choice and getting new episodes automatically is an added advantage.

How can podcasting enhance teaching and learning?

Educational uses of podcasts include recordings of class lectures, guest presentations, audio essays, gallery tours, and information updates. Instructors may create podcasts to deliver supplementary content or reinforce difficult concepts. Students may complete podcasting assignments in which they are asked to collect field data, summarize research projects, or reflect on class readings. Examples of course-related podcasts at Hunter College include:

- The German department has created supplementary audio materials for students, including dialogs read at normal and slow speeds by native speakers of German and practice exams. Now all the students enrolled in the 100 and 200 series of German courses can download all the listening materials for their courses at once, and listen to them on their home computers or MP3 players.
- Students in some English and History classes have created podcasts in which they present the topics of their research papers. The professors of these classes believe that creating podcasts helps students focus their topics and write more thoughtful research papers.
- Students in an American Sign Language class have been asked to view vodcast (video-podcast) episodes of fluent signers. Students then go to class prepared to ask questions and discuss features of American Sign Language, such as use of non-manual markers, word sign choice, word order, and tone. The professor of the course believes that vodcasting allows students to have repeated exposure to a variety of signers, an important component of the learning process.

How do I get started with podcasting?

Podcasts can be created using inexpensive external microphones or built-in microphones that exist on most laptops. To record and edit, you can use free, cross-platform software such as [Audacity](#), or [GarageBand](#) and [iMovie](#) which are available as part of the iLife suite. Podcasts can then be published using Hunter’s own [Podcast Manager](#), iTunesU or Wimba Podcaster if you want your podcast to be integrated into Blackboard. An educational technologist can work with you to select appropriate equipment and software for your needs and help you develop learning activities that incorporate podcasting. Email edtech@hunter.cuny.edu to schedule a consultation.