



Robert Thomas and
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Project: The Challenges Of Teaching A Large Cohort Of First Year Students

School: Law

Course: LAWS 10062 and 20122 Public Law 2 **No. of students:** 360 **Level:** UG

Themes: Assessment, Multimedia, Student Engagement in Class, Feedback and Marking

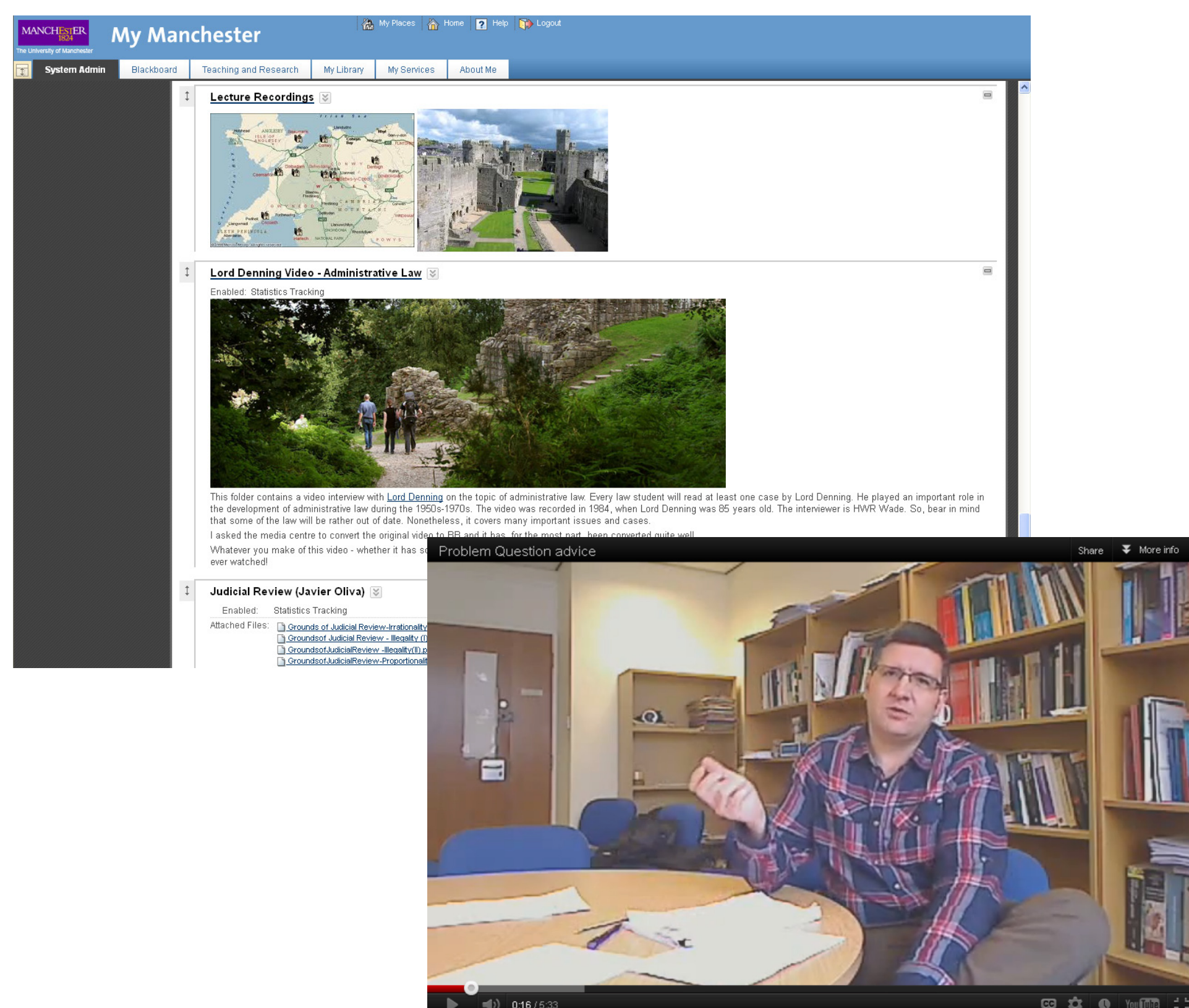
TESS 2012

Teaching Enhancement and Student Success

TESS is a University-wide initiative, funded by the Faculty of Humanities. Working with the Faculty eLearning Teams, academics set up projects aimed at developing course content specific to their needs, through elearning tools and skills development.

What was the problem?

“Public Law II/Administrative Law is a first year compulsory module, with an intake of approximately 400 students. It is traditionally regarded as a difficult subject and therefore, our challenge was to achieve students’ engagement. We aimed to offer a more sophisticated and student-focused module, as well as making the whole learning process a rewarding and enjoyable experience for our students.”



How successful was the solution?

“These different techniques made the teaching process an enriching experience. The use of clickers met with the approval of a significant proportion of our students and we have evidence of a widespread use of videos and quizzes. Attendance was remarkably high throughout the whole semester and impressive in revision lectures.”

The Humanities eLearning Team are on-hand to provide advice, guidance and demonstrations to academic staff on the opportunities for using technology in teaching, learning and assessment.

How was the problem solved?

“We used different techniques to overcome the traditional difficulties surrounding courses with a large cohort:

- 1) Quizzes for students to use in their own time
- 2) Clickers for in-lecture assessment and feedback
- 3) Videos, which would aim to enhance the engagement of students
- 4) Electronic feedback on Blackboard via Grademark, which would be carried out by seminar takers.”

What did the students think?

On the resources:

“This course is the best provider of online materials by far. It is a very useful tool and should be maintained. I have enjoyed the fact that it can always be related to current situations and the lecturers point these out successfully”.

“[...] The expansive range of extra resources made it possible for me to develop further knowledge of the subject matter. These extra resources were also in video form”.

“My personal favourite course all this year, enjoyed the topics and the resources that were available on Blackboard were really helpful”.

“Great!!! Both the Powerpoint and the online video record”.

