

Tracking Camera Demonstration - Fall 2020 Classroom Upgrades

Captioned video: <https://youtu.be/si56cvykH8Q>

For the Fall 2020 semester, about 45 classrooms on campus will include a special tracking camera, which will follow the instructor to and from the whiteboard. This feature is in addition to the web and document cameras being installed in all classrooms.

Transcript

DR. SMITH: Hello I'm Dr. Doug Smith the director of Learning Spaces and Audio-visual Technologies. I'm here today to show you some of the tools and features that are going to be installed into classrooms this summer, in support of your classes being taught as either a hybrid or fully online course from a classroom on campus.

A couple of things that I'd like to make note before I go too far is that first of all, I'm using the recording function inside of zoom to deliver this; so, this should give you some sense of what your students will see from your presentations if you choose to record them and upload. More information about the process of recording, uploading, and making them available to your students will be coming soon.

The other thing that I'd like to note is that I'm not wearing a microphone. Each instructor station is going to be outfit with a small webcam as you can see here on the top of this monitor; and that camera will serve as the microphone for this room. It does mean that you need to speak in a full voice, typical faculty voice. Beyond that, nothing should happen. No one should have to touch this, no... Should eliminate the need to wipe clean, etc.

I'm standing in one of the 45 classrooms that, is, will be outfitted with a ceiling mounted tracking camera. It's mounted in the back of the room and as you can see here. It's currently focused on me at the instructor station. As soon as I step away from the instructor station and head to the whiteboard, you'll see that the camera follows me to the whiteboard, and I can write as usual to all the things that I would normally do at the whiteboard, and as I head back to the instructor station, the camera follows me here. This is done with the use of a pressure-sensitive floor pad. So, as soon as I step on this pad, the camera knows that I'm here at the instructor station. As soon as I step away, the camera knows that I'm heading over towards the whiteboard, and it follows me there. One thing to note, is that in this situation, there will only be one whiteboard that the camera will pick up. That whiteboard will be clearly indicated in the room at the start of classes in the fall.

In addition to the tracking camera, all of our classrooms have a document camera. I'm using the controls inside of zoom to switch to the document camera, here on my left; and out of the document camera we can use any sort of medium you'd like to write on and communicate with your students. In fact, in some ways this is more effective than the whiteboard for your remote students. So here, as you can see, I'm just using an

inexpensive tablet of plain white paper. I'm using a pencil; could be a pen. In addition to plain paper, it could be graph paper, could be music notation paper, could be just a simple dollar store line tablet. Document camera is quite useful for displaying pre-printed content. So, here I've got musical score; I can flip through that. Here's something from National Geographic. One of the nice things about the document camera, is that it does have the ability to zoom in quite tight. So that you can begin to pick up significant detail out of pictures.

I'll switch back to the tracking camera. As I mentioned previously, each room will have a webcam attached. Not only is it to serve as a microphone, but it's also a really good way to keep yourself on screen when you are sharing your content. So, I'm going to share a PowerPoint presentation. And, as you can see, I'm still on the screen while I'm flipping through my slides. So, I'll stop sharing, come back to the camera. SMITH: All the other functions and features of zoom will be in place, breakout rooms, etc., that you've become accustomed to so you shouldn't have any challenges there.

I hope that you have found this helpful. Good luck in planning and preparing for your fall classes.