

# The relationship between online learning environments and learning styles and approaches

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Increasingly, universities are utilising online learning environments to supplement face-to-face teaching and learning. Two years ago, staff in the Law School established a WebCT site for a compulsory first year unit *Contract Law*. In 2003, this site was redeveloped substantially to include a variety of content modules, class materials and links to cases, case summaries and other materials. WebCT records show there was a marked variation in usage of this site amongst *Contract Law* students: while some students chose not to utilise the site at all, others engaged with the site on a daily basis. This paper investigates the reasons for this variation in usage. In particular, the paper examines the potential link between learning styles and approaches and student use of an online learning environment.