Title of Session: Benkyoukai – Exploring Classroom Management
Moderator: Keiko Schneider
Guest Speaker: Hajime Kumahata
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Room: After School Online

JohnF joined the room.
KeikoS: Hi, John sensei, meet Kumahata sensei
KumaGst6: kon nichiwa
JohnF: Konnichiwa
KumaGst6: yoroshiku
KumaGst6: onegaisimasu
JohnF: I met you at SOCALLT in Arlington earlier this year.
KumaGst6: oh, yeah, how have you been?
JohnF: Great and busy and you?
KumaGst6: me 2, now speaking of SOCALLT it is in Houston this year Feb. 6-7. little advertisement!
KumaGst6: anyone from Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas can come.
JohnF: I hope I can make it but it is far for us out west here.
KumaGst6: I hope you can, today is the deadline for the abstract. are you going to send one in?
JohnF: I don't think I'll make it for today's deadline but I'd like to see the other presentations
JohnF: FLEAT V will be in Salt Lake in 2005
KumaGst6: in conjunction with IALLT
JohnF: I hope to go.
KumaGst6: me 2
KeikoS: Have we all met?
KumaGst6: I have not met bjb yet
KeikoS: BJB is our community leader. She teaches art in juvenile facility.
KeikoS: She is from PA.
KeikoS bows to BJB
KeikoS: If we all know each other, I like Kumahata sensei to summarize some of his points.
KumaGst6: sure,
KeikoS: We can informally go into Q&A when we feel is good...
KeikoS smiles and bows.
PeterGst2 joined the room.
KeikoS: Oh, Peter made it.
KumaGst6: all the technology is really started to help teachers
PeterGst2: Hey it worked

KeikoS: I am Keiko Schneider, the organizer of the event. Kumahata sensei is the presenter and John F works at UTEP.
KumaGst6: hi Peter
JohnF: Hi
PeterGst2: HI
KumaGst6: anyway,
KumaGst6: we have a lot more to offer than just teaching through text book
KumaGst6: in fact, if you look at your students, they are spending a lot of time on computer communicating with each other and with strangers
PeterGst2: like us?
KeikoS grins
KumaGst6: this is getting more and more true with in coming freshman
KumaGst6: anyway,
KumaGst6: why don't we try to focus in their world while teaching?
KeikoS: OK...
KumaGst6: they will be more interested if they can learn in the environment
KumaGst6: do I need to stop??
KeikoS: Well, this is such a small group, we can do informally.
PeterGst2: keep going
KumaGst6: ok,
KeikoS: Whatever you feel, and Peter, could you quickly intro yourself?
PeterGst2: yes, I am Peter from UGA. I'm a grad student in Instructional Technology with some interest and background in SLA
JohnF: Is that University of Georgia?
KeikoS: Wonderful! Welcome, Peter!
PeterGst2: yes, I'm sorry.
KumaGst6: go bulldogs!
PeterGst2: that's right
JohnF: Is that the Athens campus?
PeterGst2: yes
KeikoS: Kumahata sensei, you were saying...
KumaGst6: I was saying that I became interested in bbs, bulletin board service, aka forum
KumaGst6: has anyone used it before?
KeikoS raises her hand, with my ESL
KumaGst6: thank you Keiko sensei
KumaGst6: but then I thought communicating in reading and writing only can be a bit boring
PeterGst2: as an l2 student I have used forms but not bbs
JohnF: Not for teaching language, yet.
KumaGst6: so I like using bbs with features like url or image embedding
PeterGst2: forums
KumaGst6: I would like to show you a few examples
KumaGst6: try http://www.kumahata.com/BB/
KumaGst6: there is a benkyo kai forum
KeikoS: That is a hyperlink and you can click.

KeikoS: Should I need to register to see what is going on?
PeterGst2: same question
KumaGst6: can you guys type in Japanese?
KumaGst6: no you need not to register
PeterGst2: nope
JohnF: yes
PeterGst2: Spanish, Portuguese and English. nihongo warakimasen **KumaGst6**: lol
KeikoS: Wow, you can customize like this!
KumaGst6: if you can go to benkyo kai forum, click on hello benkyo kai thread and just reply whatever, for me.
KeikoS: phpbbs, right?
KumaGst6: yes I love playing around with stuff like this, well it's my job
JohnF: Is that the same as Sensei online forum?
KumaGst6: after you post, click on refresh button, you will hopefully see other posts
KumaGst6: you can use any language since it is coded as utf-8, unicode
KeikoS: Oops, I have to adjust my view.
KumaGst6: sorry
KeikoS: Oops, I am probably not doing unicode.
KeikoS: URGH
KeikoS: I took an online class where we had over 1000 posts in 6 weeks. I guess this interface is OK for smaller traffic.
KeikoS: like in language classes.
PeterGst2: what about class management?
PeterGst2: like calendar and assignment submission, etc.
KumaGst6: hmm... someone's Japanese did not show up
KumaGst6: this is not to replace webct or blackboard
JohnF: How do I post a message there?
KumaGst6: John, did you get in to benkyo kai forum?
KeikoS: That was mine. OSX. But my default font is set to Osaka. I don't think I am sending messages in unicode either...
KumaGst6: there is a new topic button at the top
JohnF: I found Sensei Online forum but not Benkyou Kai.
PeterGst2: ok, but they have these features (discussion), so why use phpBB as well?
KumaGst6: ok john, do you see kanji under sensei on line forum? click on that
KeikoS: Interface is clean and I guess it is highly customizable.
JohnF: Yes, Sorry
KumaGst6: Peter, not everyone has webct and blackboard number one
PeterGst2: yes
PeterGst2: and phpBB is free and fairly ubiquitous
KumaGst6: number two, depending on the version, they do not support Japanese
JohnF: I see posted messages but how do I reply.
PeterGst2: have your tried Nicenet.org?
KeikoS: Peter, I don't know if Japanese goes through...
PeterGst2: it has class management, is free, has no ads and has discussion threads
KumaGst6: John, click on any topic you will see a button at the top to reply **KumaGst6**: Peter, I have not used nicenet.org

KeikoS: Maybe with unicode it might...

PeterGst2: I don't mean to play the devil's advocate. I'm actually researching and promoting forum use (including phpBB) right now. I just want to hear your reasoning for choosing this forum

KeikoS: But that is more like course management system.

KumaGst6: Keiko sensei, I bet you are using internet explorer. that is why the character is not coming out

KeikoS: Oh, that is why???

KeikoS growls

KumaGst6: Keiko sensei, please use Netscape, Safari, or Opera, sorry ....

KumaGst6: Peter,

KeikoS: OK, Keiko will try it then.

PeterGst2: yes

KumaGst6: sorry, Peter, I like phpbb, because it is free, and customizable, I can include images, links, etc

KumaGst6: this is secret, but we also find webct is too difficult for some faculty to use

PeterGst2: great. Actually, of all the customizable free stuff, it's my personal favorite in most aspects as well

PeterGst2: I'm a php guy, too, so maybe I'm biased

PeterGst2: you know, free stuff

KumaGst6: opensource is gooooood

PeterGst2: that's secret!

JohnF: I am also using IE on OSX and have mojibake when I input

PeterGst2: email is too difficult for some faculty to use!

PeterGst2: no offense meant, please

KeikoS nods and understands

KumaGst6: no offense taken

KeikoS: It worked this time.

KeikoS . o O (strange IE and unicode...)

KumaGst6: John, yes, ie and osx don't mix well on phpbb with unicode

PeterGst2: have you had success using online forums in your classes?

PeterGst2: how many classes have you used it with?

PeterGst2: for how long?

PeterGst2: I'm curious to know how things go.

KumaGst6: yes Peter, I supported 20 classes this semester and they all worked well

PeterGst2: How do you use it, etc?

PeterGst2: I'll shut up now.

KeikoS: What were the objectives for the classes?

PeterGst2: ditto

KumaGst6: we used, simplified Chinese traditional Chinese, English French, German, and Spanish

KumaGst6: they used it entire semester.

JohnF: I have been using ichat on OSX with a friend in Tokyo works great with full video & sound. Might be good for class to class communication.

KumaGst6: some faculty used it as synchronous tool in the lab. the teacher would post a few topics ahead and students jumped in

KumaGst6: John, the problem is the bandwidth.
KeikoS: I wondered why you used a tool that is meant for asynchro while synchro tool is out here.
PeterGst2: ditto
KumaGst6: two people can communicate well, but when you have 30 students doing it, it becomes a mess
KeikoS: Don't know about multilingual part, tho.
PeterGst2: good point
PeterGst2: what level L2?
KumaGst6: the reason we used bbs as synchronous ... a lot of reasons, security, cost, flexibility
KeikoS nods
KumaGst6: if we use bbs, then we only need to implement one tool.
KeikoS: Isn't it kind of odd?
KumaGst6: what's odd?
KeikoS: I guess there is a fine line async and synch, even here...
KumaGst6: yes, time is a strange thing
KeikoS: What I mean is async is not very async and synch is not too sync at times...
KumaGst6: I am still reading Peter's post from about 2 min ago and trying to answer some
KeikoS will shut up now
KumaGst6: no, don't shut up, but this is reality.
KumaGst6: that is one of my points
KumaGst6: this is reality now.
KeikoS contemplates deeply
KumaGst6: we used to use this stuff as simulation but no longer simulation this is their life
KumaGst6: and our life
PeterGst2: I'm not sure what you mean by simulation
PeterGst2: do you mean as "authentic tasks", imitating reality, but not with real intent?
KeikoS: I guess what I meant about odd was if it is cumbersome to have synch conversation using async tool, interface wise...
KumaGst6: I could not think of the term ...
KumaGst6: Peter, I mean like virtual reality.
PeterGst2: Only now they [students] sort of live this reality anyway, so it's no longer a simulation?
PeterGst2: ok
KumaGst6: Peter you got it.
KumaGst6: Keiko san, yes, you are right
KumaGst6: it is awkward (sp?)
KeikoS: Humm
KumaGst6: but when we do it with the students, they can not stop typing.
PeterGst2: I'm still interested in the L2 level, if possible.
KumaGst6: I have to kick them out to the lab
PeterGst2: how many students? roughly
KumaGst6: they want more!

PeterGst2: what university?
KeikoS: How interesting!
KumaGst6: our lab holds 20 students
KeikoS: Oh, Peter there is a paper he put out for this forum, too. Do you have the URL?
PeterGst2: no, I'm sorry.
KeikoS: I mean event...
PeterGst2: what is it?
KeikoS: http://www.kumahata.com/edu/sol.html
PeterGst2: my friend just told me about this forum.
PeterGst2: event
KeikoS chuckles
KumaGst6: although, let me share some bad points
KeikoS is eager to hear that, too
PeterGst2: sorry if I ask questions answered in the paper. If so, just say, 'that's in the paper' and I'll read it later. That way we can devote our time to moving on.
KumaGst6: heritage speakers tend not to like read too much, this happened in Chinese class they think reading is too hard
KeikoS: Wow, interesting point.
KumaGst6: Kalamazoo students did a communication project with students in Japan.
KumaGst6: in there, I think they thought the reading was a lot too.
KeikoS nods solemnly
KeikoS: Anything else???
KumaGst6: if you go back to http://www.kumahata.com/BB and read
KumaGst6: cross cultural communication/ group1 forum, you can tell it is a lot to read
KeikoS: Oh, wow, I can get to read it...
PeterGst2: what happened to John?
KumaGst6: I just opened it for you guys
KeikoS: I guess we need to have focus
KeikoS: It is easier to get distracted with technical details and fun.
KumaGst6: to use bbs effectively, (and since I moderated Kalamazoo Tokyo project it is my fault) we need to pay close attention
KumaGst6: we also need not to just stay in read and write, but we need to expand to listening and speaking
PeterGst2: Did you delete some messages? There doesn't seem to be much in group 1
KumaGst6: as you saw on my bbs, Arnold's Japanese commercial, stuff like this or the link to my audio, can be used as part of listening.
KumaGst6: Peter, could you see 12 threads?
KumaGst6: that was all, this bbs was not used entire semester, but probably just one month
KeikoS: link to audio is good...
KumaGst6: just let you know, wimba makes voice board, voiced bbs. we are looking into that.
KumaGst6: also, flash communication server is good.
KumaGst6: they can do a lot with video, voice, etc
KeikoS: lots of potentials!
KumaGst6: yes, a lot of it.

KumaGst6: sorry to have kept you until now, it is way over the time limit I get

KeikoS: Well, I wonder if anybody has one final question or comment...

KeikoS: That is OK, we had a later start. Thank you for sticking around...

KumaGst6: Peter, good luck with your study, and John see you at SOCALL, Keiko sensei, you are invited to SOCALLT too

KeikoS: Of course, I will check it out.

PeterGst2: thank you. Or do I say, arigato

KumaGst6: doo itashi mashite

KeikoS: Thank you very much for your presentation!

KeikoS claps loudly

KeikoS: And Peter and John, thank you for your participation

KeikoS: Thank you

KeikoS waves

KeikoS: Great to see you here.

KeikoS: Thanks for coming John sensei...