DISTANCE LEARNING & INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES
e-learning
UNT DALLAS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
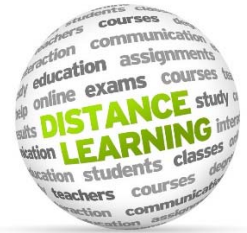
Distance Learning at UNT Dallas

Are you considering teaching an online course? Do you know where to start? The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology (DLIT) can assist you in critically thinking about the needs of your learners, effective course design, issues of access and copyright, and multimedia options.

DLIT can also assist you in effective course design to develop a robust and quality course that has proven to increase faculty workflow efficiency and increase student learning success by addressing issues with faculty presence, interactivity/engagement, and retention. Offering flexible and accessible learning formats to distance learners is laborious work up front, but once the course is developed, it practically runs itself.

- We're here for you!

More on Blackboard Rubrics

In our previous number (Newsletter No. 9) we talked about **Strategic Grading with Blackboard Rubrics**. Well, for those of you that contacted us to know more about Blackboard rubrics we would like to tell you that Blackboard has a site where you can download rubrics created by other Blackboard users, or you can also share one of your rubrics if you think it will be useful to others. Here's the link: http://www.blackboard.com/platforms/learn/products/blackboard-learn/features/sharing-rubrics.aspx.

Plagiarism in the Online Environment

UNT Dallas faculty members have access to the plagiarism deterrent tool, Turnitin. For those teaching online classes, Turnitin provides a number of useful teaching tools including OriginalityCheck, PeerMark and GradeMark. OriginalityCheck, Turnitin's core service, checks student papers against websites, journal articles and a massive bank of student papers. In addition to discouraging plagiarism, the tool also provides an opportunity for faculty and students to discuss plagiarism, academic writing, and documentation. PeerMark is a tool that manages and facilitates online peer review, and GradeMark is an online grading tool. For more information about Turnitin and how to use it within your Blackboard course shells, please contact Brian Miller, our Digital Media Instructional Designer, at Brian.Miller@untdallas.edu or 972-338-1456.

And because it's that time of year…
How To Avoid 5 Horror Stories Of eLearning Design

Have you come across design issues in eLearning which have shocked and frightened you? In this article Pam Jones looks at five situations in eLearning design that should be avoided and offers some tips on how to correct each situation.

Like many of us involved in creating eLearning, she has seen and heard many horror stories which would make us scream with fright. In the run up to Halloween, here are five ghostly eLearning design situations she has come across, with some tricks on how to avoid them.

Read more…

Let's Meet Up!

Meetups are colleagues getting together to "do something, learn something, share something, change something." This space is for any faculty (FT or adjunct) or staff member that wants to meet either in person or virtually to talk about and lead the eLearning transformation at UNT Dallas. We will held our first Meetup 1 gathering on **Nov 03** (3:30 – 5:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rooftop Garden – Let's **share** something! Click to **register** for this event!

BITS #4 - Best Practices in Creating a Welcoming Course Environment

Presenter: Cheryl Cyrus, Blackboard

How to create a warm, welcoming course environment for your students. Cyrus, a former teacher, explains that since most classes begin with welcoming students and an overview of the course and syllabus, it is important that instructors learn how to best set the tone early on in their courses. In this session, you will learn some quick tips and best practices for creating a welcoming environment and preparing your students for success. Topics will include how to leverage Blackboard features such as Course Links and the Video Anywhere Building Block.

Nov 4 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336

Click here to **register** for this event.

Brown Bag Series

Join the DLIT team for our Brown Bag Series. All UNT Dallas faculty and staff may attend and it's free of charge-just bring your lunch or stop by the cafe before the workshops and come learn with us. You won't want to miss these! Our Fall 2015 series ends next week with the following session:

Using Technology to Foster Collaboration in Education: How New Thinking is Shaping How we Teach the Next Generation of Learners

How we think about the value of collaborative skills has undergone dramatic change, as both technology and the workplace (and workplace expectations) have evolved. Educators, parents, and learners say that collaborative skills

are important, even as employers are asking for graduates who are effective collaborators in the workplace. But how well are we doing as a community in promoting it -- whether via social interactions or use of technologies?
Nov 5 (12:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127
Click to **register** for this event!

Articles

(Click the images to read the articles)

More

NOV 9-13	**USDLA: 2015 National Distance Learning Week** *More info to come.*		**NOV 18**	**Blackboard Open Lab** 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM Dal 1, Rm 336
NOV 10	**UNTD Distance Learning Showcase** 12:00 PM TBA		**NOV 19**	**DLAC—Advisory Committee Meeting** 10:00 AM—12:00 PM Founders Hall, Rm 127
NOV 16	**"Welcome" Videos Shoot Session #1** 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM Founders Hall, Rm 138		**NOV 19**	**Social Media, Accessibility and Disability Inclusion** 1:00 PM—2:30 PM Founders Hall, Rm 127 or virtually
NOV 17	**"Welcome" Videos Shoot Session#2** 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM Founders Hall, Rm 138			

Contact Us!

The **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies** invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for our workshops and sessions!

Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:

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