



Volume 2, Number 2 | August 19, 2016



Welcome back faculty and staff to another academic year at UNT Dallas. We have scheduled several workshops, webinars and other faculty development training options for you. If you still haven't gotten a copy of our full catalog of events for the fall semester please come by

our offices to pick one up. We also have calendars by date and by type of events for your planning purposes. As always, our office is here to support you in designing and delivering online and hybrid courses as well as assist you in the use of instructional technologies in your teaching and learning. Please reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions for how we can better serve you.

Here are some important notes for you:

- a. UNT Dallas eCampus is **Blackboard Learn** at <http://learn.untDallas.edu>
- b. All faculty and staff members, as well as ALL UNTD students have an automatic login to Blackboard. If you don't know your login please visit the IT Helpdesk.
- c. Whether you teach an online, hybrid, or face-to-face class, students want you to post important course information on Blackboard. Our recent student survey indicated that **over 80%** of the students consider that information posted on Blackboard (Bb) contributes to their success!
Please email us if you need assistance in posting your course information on Bb.
- d. Encourage students to use all our online learning resources available through Blackboard, including online tutoring, library databases, student resources, and many others.
- e. Your courses are automatically populated with your students, so using the Bb Grade Book is handy even if you're teaching a face to face course. Contact us at the office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology for training on how to use the Blackboard Grade Center.
- f.
- g. Advise students to save their files using **ONLY** letters and/or numbers. Files may not include other signs or symbols (such as #, \$, %). If such signs are used, the instructor will receive an error message when trying to open the files.
- h. If you are teaching an online or hybrid course, please make sure that your course is **FULLY UPDATED** prior to the semester start.
- i. Encourage your students by placing regular announcements, information, feedback and updates on their progress on your course site. Students are more likely to seek help if they read your encouragement and see direct links to such resources.

- j. **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT** is key for student success in online classes. Therefore, use tools such as discussion boards, wikis, blogs, e-portfolios, journals, and videos to promote active learning.
- k. Watch for our weekly newsletter on Fridays announcing training opportunities.



Folders vs. Learning Modules in Blackboard

Blackboard offers two methods for deploying content to students. Unfortunately, as professor it is not clear what the differences between folders and learning modules are because in the instructor's view, they look identical.



Both Content Folders and Learning Modules are ways to organize the materials deployed to students. Looking at them from a level higher, they look similar except for the icon:



Once you click the Content Folder / Learning Module's name to build content inside it, you will notice one significant difference about a Learning Module: The table of contents.

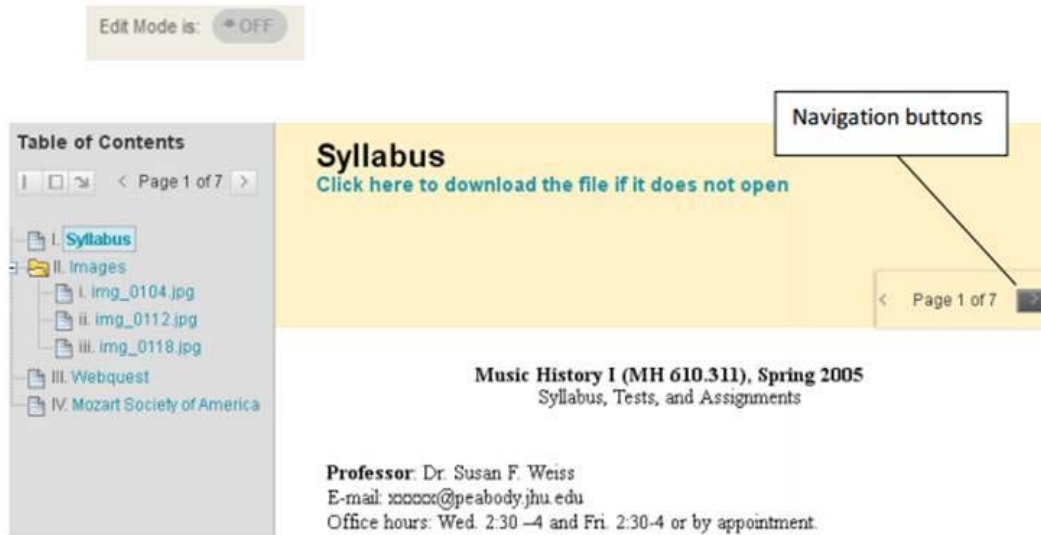


Learning Modules are organized collections of content that students move through on a structured path. A learning module can contain documents, assignments, media files, web links, and more. Modules can be set up to be opened in a new window or they can be set to be viewed in sequential order to allow students to move through the items in a linear path.

A learning module is a way of presenting content items in sequence. The module items can be viewed in any order or "sequential viewing" can be enforced. Any type of content item (file, assignment, test, etc.) can be added to a learning module.

Learning Modules are best used for creating a sequential learning experience that utilizes a variety of different tools. For example, you could provide 2-3 articles, followed by a link to a discussion forum and then have an assignment dropbox for a paper based on the articles and discussion. It is NOT useful to house a library of information, such as a collection of files or links to websites. Content Folders are best used to house a collection of materials such as files and links, as it doesn't force the users to look at things in order. It allows the student to have a global view of all the content in that folder.

You can preview a learning module as a student, turning the Edit Mode 'Off' (upper right hand side).



The first item is displayed. Students can use the navigation buttons in the upper right to page from item to item, as well as the table of contents on the left. If sequential viewing is enforced, items must be viewed in order.

But the way that you and I as administrator were seeing the content items differs from Student view and we need to set the edit mode to "off" in order to see how the students will see the content.

Watch a brief video tutorial about Student Blackboard Navigation in a Learning Module:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxH7_y4E3V0



Join us every Monday morning in a practical and convenient series of brief online sessions where we'll answer common online teaching and learning questions. Start every week with dynamic professional development programming for you right in the convenience of your office or your home.

In a compact format designed for busy schedules, the **Monday Morning Mentor** sessions (20-30 minutes) we will seek to deliver focused, fact-filled examinations of issues important to faculty and staff. Those include:

- Online student engagement
- Teaching online
- Online assessment and learning goals
- Online classroom management
- Legal concerns
- ... and much more!



Sessions will be held online every Monday during the semester, starting at 8:30 AM.

It's a great way for you to start the week!

Join Arturo this upcoming Monday morning as he'll kick-off the online mentoring series from a PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android device by clicking on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/990666259>



We are also kicking off our Fall 2016 Webinar Series which will offer the opportunity to learn about a great variety of topics from industry experts without leaving our campus that you can apply in the traditional classroom and in your online courses. Our Fall 2016 series include the following tracks:

1. Student Engagement and Retention

- From Monologue to Dialogue: Adding Interaction to your Presentations
- Bibbity Bobbity Boo - No More Boring Lectures for YOU! Write Activities to Make Boring Lectures Disappear
- Are You a Boring Explainer or Engaging Storyteller?
- How To Engage Modern Learners: When to "Push" and When to "Pull"
- Pulling Learners to Your Content: How to Make it Work

2. E-Learning Design

- E-Learning for Newbies, Beginners and the Confused
- How to Create Personalized E-Learning
- How to Design Performance-Based E-Learning
- How to Find Stories to Ignite eLearning
- The 4-Door Approach to Effective and Engaging E-Learning Design

3. Technology in the Classroom

- From Technology to Talk: Digital Resources for Deeper Classroom Conversations
- Free Learning Resources: How OER Can Help You and Your Students
- 30 Apps in 60 Minutes
- How Teachers Are Using Instagram in the Classroom
- The Power of eBooks in a Personalized Learning Environment

4. Videos, Captioning , and Accessibility

- Overcoming the Top 5 Challenges of Video Instruction
- The Impact of Recent Lawsuits on Video

- Accessibility Requirements
- 2016 Legal Update on Digital Accessibility Cases
- How to Shoot Rich Cultural Videos on a Smartphone
- The Future of Closed Captioning in Higher Education

5. Gamification

- The Gamification of Learning
- How To Gamify Your E-learning
- Gamification Master Class: Learn all about gamifying the learning experience
- Gamification by the Numbers
- Gamification In Action: Real-World Results

6. Innovation in Teaching and Learning

- Technology and the Evolving Business Model in Higher Education
- Learning Technology Strategy for the Modern Learner
- The Rise of Competency-Based Education
- De-Mystifying Adult Learning Techniques!
- Innovation in Teaching



There are 5 webinars in each track.

6 different concentration/topics.

You decide which ones to attend accordingly to your interests.

Earn certificates and digital badges for each attended session and for a completed track.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available to participants for attending each session and for completion of an entire webcast series. The Continuing Education Unit is a nationally recognized method of quantifying the time spent engaging in professional development and training activities. Ten hours of instruction = 1.0 CEU. One hour of instruction = 0.1 CEU.

Certificate of Attendance (COA) and Continuous Learning Badges (CLB): You will earn a Certificate of Attendance and a digital badge for each webinar/webcast you attend. The Certificate of Attendance is for 1.0 professional development hour (equivalent to 0.1 continuing education unit in Texas and most states).

Certificate of Completion (COC): Every participant who attends all 5 sessions of a single track is eligible for a Certificate of Completion for 5 professional development hours (equivalent to 0.5 continuing education unit)

Earn



Learn



Connect





Online Student Orientations for UNTD Students

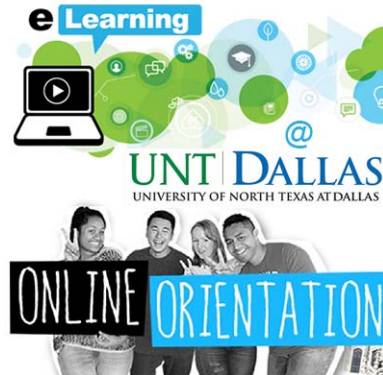
A short online orientation (about 30 min) that prepares students to understand what's different about taking courses online versus in the classroom; how to adjust study habits to promote success in online courses; and additional resources at UNT Dallas that are available when students need help.

The goal of these short sessions is to increase their knowledge and prepare them for their online courses as well as in-person courses that utilize online components, also called hybrid courses. By attending this orientation, students will know how to:

- prepare for their online course
- manage their time in their online course
- be a successful online student
- use the online technologies
- check their computer to use with online course technologies
- get help when something goes wrong

Saturday, August 20, 10 AM and 11 AM, virtual (online)

Monday, August 22, 6 PM and 7 PM, virtual (online)



AUG 22 Monday Morning Mentor: Arturo
(8:30 AM - 9 AM), virtual (online)



Distance Learning & Blackboard Info Table (For Students, Faculty and Staff)

Come by our Information Table and meet our Blackboard Helpdesk Assistant who will be available to present Distance Learning opportunities and services provided by our office to students and staff.

Monday, August 22, 11 AM – 1 PM in the Atrium of Founders Hall

Blackboard Workshops (For Students)

These brief sessions are intended for students that are new to Blackboard Learn. The workshop will cover such topics as logging into Blackboard, locating your courses, the Course Menu, participating in the Discussion Board, using the Emails and Messages features, submitting assignments, and taking online tests. Tell your students to join us in **Dal 1, Computer Lab 201 D** on any of the following dates:

Tuesday, August 23, 11 AM and 4:30 PM

Wednesday, August 24, 10 AM and 4:30 PM

Thursday, August 25, 11 AM and 4:30 PM



Blackboard Jumpstart Workshops (For Faculty)

In these fast paced, focused sessions you will learn the critical skills

about using Blackboard, particularly if you are using it for the first time and need to get your course ready quickly. Topics will include course management, content organization, basic communication, and using the grade center. The sessions for the Fall semester will include sessions the week BEFORE the semester begins, as we know that is just the time faculty members might need assistance in preparing their Blackboard courses, especially those who are new to Blackboard. But we'll also have sessions available for you during the first week of the semester. Please join us for any or all of the following workshop sessions next week:

Tuesday, August 23, 2 PM – 4 PM in Founders Hall, Rm 136

Friday, August 26, 10 AM – 12 PM or 2 PM – 4 PM in Founders Hall, Rm 136



Blackboard & Bagels

Join us in our work room for an informal gathering of the DLIT staff and faculty to discuss your Fall '16 Blackboard experiences, learn about new ideas. We provide the rounds and you arrive to enjoy, discuss, ask questions, share stories, and learn more about distance learning and Blackboard at UNT Dallas. Bring your questions and concerns and share with your colleagues! We plan to host this event once per month.

Wednesday, August 24, 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM, FH, Rm 122



From Monologue to Dialogue: Adding Interaction to your Presentations

[Track 1: Student Engagement and Retention]

Presenter: Matt Abrahams, Stanford Lecturer, Co-founder Bold Echo, Author of "Speaking Up without Freaking Out"

Opening channels for collaborative communication is critical in today's ever-changing world. Instructors risk drowning out valuable input and alienating students if they simply push information out and dictate direction. However, providing and managing invitations to participate can be challenging. In other words, moving from monologue to dialog is necessary, yet difficult. You must balance presenting clear information concisely – that is, commanding the room -- with facilitating input and innovation – in other words, collaborating creatively.

In this webinar, you will learn specific, immediately applicable facilitation techniques that are informed by scholarly research.

Wednesday, August 24, 2016 @ 12 PM - 1 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Technology and the Evolving Business Model in Higher Education

[Track 6: Innovation in Teaching and Learning]

Presenters: Scott Jaschik, Editor, Inside Higher Ed, editor of The Chronicle of Higher Education

Doug Lederman, Editor, Inside Higher Ed

Technology is changing the business model for colleges and universities in myriad ways.

Regardless of whether institutions are primarily about educating students in person or online, technology is providing new tools to track and encourage student success and to reshape how colleges think about retention and completion. In turn, these efforts have a major impact on the economic health of colleges.



For the many colleges that now offer online courses or full programs, technology is expanding the universe of potential students and creating a range of business models to serve those students. In this webinar we will explore the strategies some colleges are using, and the challenges faced by institutions as they seek to use technology to strengthen their financial bases.

Thursday, August 25, 2016 @ 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM, Founders Hall, Rm 127

Articles



(Click the images to read the articles)

Making Virtual Classrooms More Interactive

By Dian Schaffhauser

Source: elearningindustry.com

Estimated reading time: 14 min

Harvard and UC Berkeley share two different approaches to helping online business school students feel like they're attending class in person.

You know you have a truly collaborative online instructional platform when students take selfies of themselves posing on a display with their remote instructors. That has actually transpired with people who experience Harvard Business School's HBX Live virtual classroom.

[Read more...](#)



Six Steps to Collaborative, Interactive Video

By Carrie Strohl

Source: Learning Solutions Mag

Estimated reading time: 12 min

Excitement over online video certainly should not drive your learning programs, but I hope these examples and best practices give you some ideas for taking a learner-centered approach to collaborative video.”

[Read more...](#)

8 Ways To Facilitate Meaningful Online Discussions In eLearning

By Christopher Pappas

Source: elearningindustry.com

Estimated reading time: 7 min

Striking up an online discussion can be tricky when you're half a world away. Thankfully, eLearning can break down the barriers and remove geographical limitations that stand in the way. In this article, I'll highlight 8 techniques to facilitate meaningful online discussions in your eLearning course.

[Read more...](#)





Mark Your Calendars!

- AUG 22 Monday Morning Mentor**
(8:30 AM - 9 AM), virtual (online)
- AUG 22 DLIT Information Table
(For Students, Faculty and Staff)**
(11 AM - 1 PM) FH, Atrium
- AUG 22 Online Student Orientation for
UNTD Students**
(6 PM and 7 PM) virtual (online)
- AUG 23 Blackboard Workshops (Students)**
(11 AM and 4:30 PM), DAL1, 201D
- AUG 23 Blackboard Jumpstart Workshop**
(2 PM - 4 PM) FH, Rm 136
- AUG 24 Blackboard & Bagels**
(8:30 AM - 10 AM), FH, Rm 122



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:

Web: <http://www.untDallas.edu/dlit>

Phone: 972-338-5580

Email: UNTDDistance@unt.edu



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