

Blackboard for Effective Course Delivery

Fall 2021

Introduction

- Who we are
- Who are you? (poll)
- Why this session?
 - Your department might have courses using the instructional methods described in the Introduction to Four* Instructional Methods session
 - March 2020 required a pivot, the future....?
- 2021 – 2022 Theme/Verse (Ann Arbor): **All-Surpassing Savior** “But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” 2 Cor. 4:7-9.

Context and Focus

- Who teaches CUWAA courses?
 - Online only, Center only, Full-time faculty, Part-time faculty
- Where are courses taught?
 - Online, Center, Traditional
 - Some use master course shells
- 4 Instructional Methods:
 - Online (asynchronous), Face-to-face, Videoconference (live/synchronous), Combinations
 - Introduction to 4 Instructional Methods session:
 - What does a course look like?
 - What does interaction look like?
 - What do learning activities look like?
- Blackboard for Effective Course Delivery Fall 2021:
 - How can we use Blackboard for effective communication, consistency

[Comprehensive Blackboard Video](#)

[Comprehensive Blackboard Document](#)

Today's session

- Common Blackboard tools
- Best practices for organizing content – provide consistency to our students regardless of instructional method
- Grade Center
 - Updates
 - Tips and tricks
- Course size limits

Most Common Types of Blackboard Content



Folder



File



Item



Assignment
("drop box")

- [Four Foundational Videos](#) (shows above and Grade Center)
- [Blackboard A to Z](#) (searchable list of many Blackboard tutorials)
- [New Content Editor](#) (11/20)

Best Practices for Organizing
Content: Consistency to our students
regardless of instructional method

Grade Center Policy (Passed Academic Council)

- Ensure that each assessment activity (including any points awarded for attendance or participation) is accurately in the LMS gradebook so that students have an accurate understanding of their academic standing in the course. The LMS gradebook must align with the grading policy stated in the syllabus. Any discrepancies between the syllabus grading policy, the LMS gradebook, and the final grade posted in the Banner system must be clearly explained in the syllabus. Official grades recorded in Banner should align with grades entered in the LMS, and must align with the grading policy described in the syllabus.
- Set the column that shows the overall course grade (usually the Total or Weighted Total column) as the external grade (with a green check mark), and set the primary display so students see it as either a percentage or letter grade.

Grade Center: Updates, Tips & Tricks

[Setting the External Grade](#) (including after a course copy)

[Set Primary \(and Secondary\) Display for final grade column](#)

[Grade overrides](#) (example: entering a zero because student didn't turn in assignment)

Hiding Student Rows

Hidden columns

- Hidden from Instructor
- Hidden from Students

Course Size Limits

Notification ("soft limit") at 500MB

Unable to upload content at 1GB

Top things to do/not do:

- DON'T upload video files (mp4) - upload a link instead
- DON'T ask your students to submit video files (submit a link instead: YouTube or [OneDrive](#))
- DON'T upload voiceover PPT files
- DO delete unused/large files from Content AND Content Collection

[More information and resources](#)

Where to Get Technology Help

Zoom Technology or Polysynchronous Technology

Contact the Help Desk

- Mequon
 - 262-243-4357
 - ithelpdesk@cuw.edu
- Ann Arbor
 - 734-995-7424
 - information.technology@cuaa.edu

Blackboard

- CELT (face-to-face, videoconferencing, blended – BF, BV)
 - celtsupport@cuw.edu
 - 262-243-2358
- Blackboard Support (online, blended – BD)
 - Blackboardsupport@cuw.edu
 - 262-243-4327