Academic Continuity: Blackboard Collaborate and Blackboard Basics

Michael E. Morrison
Associate Director of Academic Service Centers
Information Technology Services

Syracuse University
Information Technology Services
Session Overview

- Introduction and Background - 10:00-10:15
- Blackboard Collaborate Ultra Demo - 10:15-10:45
- Getting Started with Blackboard Learn - 10:45-11:25
- Questions and Discussion - 11:25-11:30
Session Recording and Online Participants

- Online Participants via Collaborate
- Recording of this session being made in Blackboard Collaborate
- Link will be shared after the session
Academic Continuity

Efforts underway to move delivery of face-to-face classes to online between March 23-30. May be extended to the end of the Spring 2020 semester.
Delivering a Face-to-Face Class Online

- Difficult to change the teaching style midsemester
- Not building exemplary Online Courses
- Delivering materials via online methods - Remote Teaching
- Goal is to get students to the end of the semester
Delivering a Face-to-Face Class Online

- Both faculty and student are going to be anxious about these changes
- Communication is very important so that everyone know what is expected
- Set goals but have flexibility
- Balance newness and need
Blackboard – Course Organizer

- All course in MySlice automatically get a Blackboard space
- All Faculty, Staff and Students have a Blackboard account - NetID
- Courses are initially ”Unavailable” to students but are always available to the instructor
- Cross-listed courses and multiple sections can be merged into a single Blackboard space
Blackboard – Course Organizer

- Can upload and share course files and links to online course resources
  - Syllabus, handouts, readings, homework, etc.
  - Links to videos, websites, library resources
- Tools to support collaboration, communication and assessment
  - Announcements, discussion board, assignment tool, testing tool, online grade book
Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

- Synchronous web conferencing tool
- Tightly integrated with Blackboard, but can be accessed by a “guest link” as well
- Can be used for lots of different functions when moving course online
- Blackboard Collaborate Demo
Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

7 Attendees

Moderator (1)
- Beth Carlson

Presenter (1)
- Alexi

Participants (5)
- Rachel
- Duke
- Flor
- Moki
- Steve
Blackboard Collaborate Ultra
Blackboard Collaborate Ultra

- Can replicate a class session
- Scheduling can be difficult - students in different time zones
- Hold fewer synchronous sessions mixed with Asynchronous materials
Face-to-Face Course Functions Online

- Communicate with students
- Share Documents
- Deliver a lecture
- Hold a discussion
- Collect an Assignment
- Give a Quiz/Test
- Share grades with students/Provide Feedback
- Answer Student Questions/Hold Office Hours
Communicate with Students

- Communicate early and often
- Ease Student Anxiety
- Share information even when you don’t have all the details
- Set Expectations - for students and for yourself
- Create an Information Page - check before emailing
Communicate with Students

• Telephone
• Email
• Blackboard Announcement
• Blackboard Collaborate Ultra
Communicate - Email

• Individual emails from Outlook
• Email all students from MySlice or Blackboard
• Can attach files but size limit
• Student Email - Course and section in subject line
Communicate – Blackboard Announcement

- Easily share information with all students
- Entry point for Blackboard site
- Date restriction
- Demonstration
Share Files with your Students

- Syllabus and schedule updates, readings, homework
- Can attach to email but size limitation
- Blackboard Items
  - Organization by folders and with multiple attachments to the same item
- Shared Folder in Google Drive or One Drive
Blackboard Ally

- Files uploaded into Blackboard - PDF, Word, PowerPoint
- Provides alternate format for all users, including students
- Different text versions and an MP3 audio version
Deliver a Lecture - PowerPoint

- Upload files to Blackboard or share via Google Drive, One Drive or email attachment
- Already prepared but likely incomplete
  - Modify to add additional slides
  - Add additional information in the notes section
  - Narrate audio over the PowerPoint
    - Save as PPT file with embedded audio
    - Export as Video file - upload to YouTube
Deliver a Lecture – Blackboard Collaborate

- Live scheduled session - share PowerPoint of other materials from Desktop
- Create a Collaborate recording and share the link via Blackboard
Hold a Discussion

- Shared Document - add responses
  - Email, shared Google Document
- Blackboard Discussion Board
- Advanced Tools
  - FlipGrid
  - Microsoft Teams
  - Slack
Collect an Assignment

- Send via Email
  - Documents and small files
  - Subject Line of message includes course title and section
- Blackboard Assignment Tool
  - Any type and size of file
  - Time and Date stamped
  - Collects submissions in one place
Turnitin

• Assignment tool that supports plagiarism detection
• Automatically checks all papers against internet sources, journals, other submitted papers
• Provides a similarity score and shows matches
Assignment – Feedback

- Set expectations but allow flexibility
- Inline editor in Blackboard assignment tool and Turnitin assignment tool
- Insert comments and highlight issues
- Can also provide grade and general feedback
- Turnitin will allow for audio commenting
Tests and Quizzes

- May need to rethink your exams for out of class participation
  - Open book exams/Take home exams
- Distribute exam electronically in PDF or Word format at assigned time
  - Students can complete on computer and return by deadline
  - Can also print, complete, take picture with phone and return
Blackboard Tests and Quizzes

- Easy to use for essay exams
- Can also use for multiple choice exams but requires more setup
  - Allows for randomization
  - Time limit
  - Can support ODS Accommodations for additional time
Blackboard Grade Book

- Share grades securely with students
- Students can only see their grades
- Some Blackboard items (Assignments, tests) automatically create records in grade book.
- Can weight grades, download grades
Where to Get Help

• Send email to help@syr.edu
• Call 315-443-2677
  • Sunday - Thursday 8:00 AM to Midnight
  • Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
• http://answers.syr.edu
Questions and Discussion