FCLD’s Jumpstart Seminars (August & September)

The Faculty Center for Learning Development (FCLD) offers ongoing seminars and instruction on a variety of instructional technology, including Blackboard, the University's learning management system (LMS). FCLD will be offering the following seminars during the month of August and early September. Unless otherwise indicated, all seminars are held in the Woods Classroom in Mortensen Library. Faculty interested in attending should register by emailing fcld@hartford.edu or calling (860) 768-4661.

Check Out What’s New in Blackboard – True Student Preview, SafeAssign/Assignment Integration, Grade Center updates, and more!

Multiple Dates:
Thursday, August 13, 11:30am – 12:30pm
Thursday, August 20, 11:00am – 12:00pm
Friday, August 28, 11:00am – 12:00pm
Friday, September 11, 11:00am – 12:00pm

Blackboard was upgraded in May and now has some additional useful tools and enhancements, including inline grading with annotations, which allows instructors to comment and grade Blackboard assignments without downloading the assignments to their PCs. Inline grading is also available for journals, wikis and blogs. In addition, SafeAssign has been fully integrated into the Assignment tool and the Grade Center has been updated.

SafeAssign/Assignment Integration
Wednesday, August 12, 10:00am – 10:30am
Thursday, September 3, 1:00pm – 1:30pm

SafeAssign is now integrated into regular Blackboard Learn Assignments. Learn about the new ways Blackboard has integrated these to make life simpler for students and faculty, how they are graded, and other options. Also, learn about Designated and Anonymous grading options that have been added to the Blackboard Assignments tool.

Blackboard’s Inline Grading Tool
Friday, August 14, 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Tired of downloading papers from Blackboard just so you can grade them? Blackboard’s Inline Grading Tool is designed to allow instructors to grade and markup student documents in assignments, as well as grade blogs, wikis and journals without leaving Blackboard. This seminar is a must for online instructors, but very helpful for anyone who uses Blackboard’s assignments, blogs, wikis, or journals tools.
Best Practices in Accessibility  
**Monday, August 17, 2:00pm – 3:00pm**

The Faculty Center for Learning Development, in conjunction with Suzanne Anderson McNeil, Assistant Vice President of Student Health and Wellness, will be discussing and sharing best practices in Accessibility. Accessibility ensures that people of all abilities and disabilities are able to use resources (e.g. content in Blackboard, PowerPoint Presentations, Videos, Podcasts, etc.) It is especially important to especially focus on making media (images, videos, audio) accessible to students who may be hard of hearing/deaf and/or visual impaired/blind.

Creating Video ‘Lecturelettes’ with Personal Capture (PCap)  
**Wednesday, August 19, 1:00pm – 1:30pm**

Echo360 Personal Capture is a simple, convenient tool that can capture your voice, the action on your computer screen, and web cam video. Its versatility means that you can use it to record audio podcasts, video lectures, or narrated presentations and demonstrations. It is free for you to use as University of Hartford faculty. This session will guide you through the process of recording a narrated screen capture, editing it, and publishing it to Blackboard. Pre-registration is helpful for this session, so that an Echo360 account can be created for you in advance.

Getting Started with Ensemble, the Campus’ “In-House YouTube”  
**Wednesday, August 19, 1:30pm – 2:00pm**

Ensemble works like an in-house YouTube, allowing faculty to quickly and easily upload videos, then link to them from Blackboard and other websites. Faculty who are flipping the classroom, teaching online, using video clips in instruction, or working with student video projects should plan to attend this special information session about Ensemble and learn how to access and start using it in instruction. Pre-registration is helpful for this session, so that an Ensemble account can be created for you in advance.

SMART Boards – Annotate, Capture, Present, and More  
**Friday, August 21, 10:00am – 11:00am**

SMART Boards are located in many classrooms on campus. SMART Boards work with a computer, projector, digital pens, and software called Notebook. The computer screen is projected onto the SMART Board, where the board’s surface allows you to control the computer with your finger and/or annotate using a digital pen. Come and find out what you can do with a ‘SMART Classroom’. Matt Weber, Media Technology Specialist, from ITS will be joining FCLD in presenting this workshop.
Personality Matters: Engaging Students in an Online Course  
**Monday, August 24, 3:00pm – 4:00pm**  
Teaching experience, content expertise and professional accomplishments are all important to becoming an online instructor, but how do you engage and motivate students? John Morra, Adjunct Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice and Gaylynn Moore-Collins, Adjunct Professor of Sociology, along with FCLD, will share some tips and tricks for injecting personality into your online course, establishing a friendly, inviting and engaging atmosphere where your students can get the same “feeling” as a face-to-face course.

PowerPoint Tips and Tricks from a Graphic Designer  
**Wednesday, August 26, 2:00pm – 3:00pm**  
Learn how to spice up your PowerPoints in this seminar. Create visually stimulating PowerPoint slides that are appealing to the reader and incorporate media in its various forms. Learn how to embed images, manipulate them and also add graphics, transitions, animations and other tools to create interactivity within your presentations.

Grade Center: Do It Now!  
**Thursday, August 27, 12:00pm – 1:00pm**  
**Wednesday, September 9, 10:00am – 11:00am**  
Come and learn how setting up your Blackboard Grade Center early in the semester has numerous advantages. Doing so early means you can:
- Have course grades calculated automatically throughout the course.
- Help students keep track of their own progress throughout the course.
- Have information ready at your fingertips when it's time to submit mid-semester or final grades.
- Weight grades and drop lowest scores quickly and easily.

Getting Started with Blackboard/Blackboard Drop In  
**Tuesdays, 12:15-1:30 p.m.**  
Have a quick question about Blackboard? Stop by and ask! Just getting started or need a refresher? This general orientation to Blackboard will provide you with strategies for organizing your Blackboard course, review the many tools and features available in Blackboard, and start adding content such as a syllabus to your Blackboard course. Be sure to bring digital versions of your syllabus or other course documents; this hands-on seminar is designed to get you up and running on Blackboard!