



TEACHING WITH TECH

News from the Office of Distance Learning



November 5, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Efficiency with In-line Grading Features: The new in-line grading feature in Blackboard was released this summer. ODL has heard your concerns about the difficulty in seeing all of the comments and reading the document with the in-line features on the smaller monitors, and we have some new tips for easier grading.

View this video for instructions for viewing in-line grading in a larger window: [In-Line Grading](#)

View this document for written instructions: [Different Views with In-Line Grading](#)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Q & A



Nathan Wilkerson

Adjunct Instructor, Graduate Business

Tools of Choice: Blackboard Wiki and Prezi

Q: What did you find beneficial about using Prezi and the Blackboard wiki tool?

A: The wiki tool in Blackboard and the third party site, Prezi, allowed my students to engage their creativity and express themselves in ways that transcended the limits imposed by written responses alone. The wiki tool allowed students to process the information presented in the course holistically and visually. At the conclusion of a unit on the church, students were to create their own imaginary church website within a wiki that I had set up. The assignment required that they not only apply their understanding of the church and share it with their classmates but that they consider other factors such as how the location on the page, particular fonts, images and external links all contributed to the overall message they were trying to convey. The wiki also enhanced collaborative learning by providing greater appeal and, thereby, greater engagement over the work of others in the course. Prezi is a web-based presentation tool which uses flash animation and can be shared online. Not only are prezis fun to create, but the process of putting one together facilitates the synthesis of information as students are allowed to brainstorm on the canvas and then order their ideas around a visual theme.

Q: How did you manage grading?

A: The wiki tool makes grading easy, since it allows the instructor to assign one grade to each student's total contribution. In my case, one student grade was given for both the original wiki page and for any comments made to the wiki pages of others. Prezi, on the other hand, presented several challenges to grading. The first challenge I encountered was in regards to specifying a minimum size to the project. Since the technology was new, students were initially unsure as to what constituted a substantial prezi. I found that mandating a minimum number of "path steps" resolved this issue well. In order to post a prezi grade within Blackboard, I created either a discussion board forum or a journal where students could submit links to their prezis. I then entered the grades within those areas.

Q: What advice do you have for other instructors who want to start using these tools?

A: I believe tools such as wikis and Prezi are important resources to online instructors since we are teaching, for the most part, tech-proficient learners who access information and express it in ways that transcend traditional media. That being the said, many will be still be new to these specific tools, so instructors using them must take extra care to communicate expectations for excellent work in each media and provide examples. An instructor might want to allow multiple attempts for the first few assignments which utilize these technologies until students become comfortable with them. It will require a bit of extra work in the design, but the result will be better engagement with the material and with other students in the course.

TECH TUESDAYS

November 12: Creating & Integrating Rubrics

Rubrics are a great tool to use for quick, objective grading of student work and presentations. During this workshop, you will learn how to create effective rubrics for different types of assignments. Then we will show you how to integrate these rubrics into your Blackboard courses for use in expedited grading and feedback.

[Sign up here.](#)

December 10: Student & Class Presentation Tools

Do you have students do presentations in your classes? Would you like to record those presentations for students to review or to save for reviewing later? Attend this workshop to discover multiple methods to record student presentations. In addition, we will be reviewing class presentation tools, so that you can bring in guest speakers remotely or have a live class while you are away. [Sign up here.](#)

[View more details](#) and make sure to sign up today. Want to attend from the comfort of your own desk? Choose "via Blackboard Collaborate" when you sign up.

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