

Introduction

Faculty input and preference suggestions for use are critical elements as we transition from the Blackboard course management system (CMS) to the Moodle learning management system (LMS). This discussion-based workshop will bring together a small group of Thomas faculty who are able to articulate their respective current use (or non-use) of Blackboard in such a way that the equivalent Moodle features can be demonstrated and taught to all members of the group.

Group members will be invited to participate based on current Blackboard use and variety of course types. For example, an instructor who teaches in both the Day and Evening divisions often has experience with hybrid methodology and is able to address issues such as ease of access to the web-based CMS. The instructor who has opted to not use Blackboard for reasoned pedagogical concerns, is equally valuable in the CMS/LMS discussion workshop venue.

Date of Initiation

Discussion workshops will occur weekly through the rest of the academic year, beginning at the point of having recruited a practical number of participants (7-8). The anticipated start time is the first week of November 2008.

Workshop Objectives

In this workshop, members will:

- A. ...be offered the opportunity to contribute to the Thomas online teaching paradigm
- B. ...become familiar with Moodle learning management system features and shortfalls
- C. ...become aware of effective ways to incorporate LMS features to the face-to-face classroom model
- D. ...share course model experiences with colleagues
- E. ...offer suggestions for further training topics and or venues
- F. ...become comfortable enough with the Moodle LMS to act as mentor to other Thomas faculty.

Main Topics Covered in the Course

- A. Blackboard CMS (as a jump-off point for introducing Moodle)
- B. Moodle LMS
 - a. Common features/uses – generated by the participants
 - b. Less common features/uses – generated by the participants
- C. Online teaching ideology(ies)
- D. Online student styles
- E. Moodle “Tricks”

Possible or Typical Texts

Instruction materials will center around the Moodle LMS. All resources will be generated via Moodle in the form of uploaded documents, online help-forums and LISTSERVs, “home-grown” how-to sheets and the Thomas Moodle sample course *Faculty Resources for Moodle*.

Instructor

The course will be taught by *Colleen Burnham*

- Thomas information resource specialist
- Thomas Blackboard and Moodle user administrator
- Certified Distance Education Trainer (University of West Georgia, 2008)