academic technologies

TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY

acadtech.cit.cornell.edu   August 2014

⬈ Ongoing Pilots

Join the Academic Technology Early Adoption Mentors program

Academic Technologies' goal is to help instructors use technology to enhance student learning. But knowing which tools to use can be difficult, because new ones are introduced almost daily and many don't live up to their promise. We want to help instructors find what works best for their teaching style and classroom environment.

One challenge is that the only real testing ground is in the classroom with an instructor who has a clear goal in mind. We're always looking for instructors who are excited about exploring how new educational technologies can help students learn. This process will be formalized during the fall semester with the launch of the Academic Technology Early Adoption Mentors program (ATEAM).

The ATEAM will be a small group of instructors who'd like to partner with us to find new technologies to address a specific classroom problem or goal, and then pilot the technology in the classroom. In addition to trying new technologies in a classroom setting, it's hoped the initiative can facilitate a community of like-minded instructors who share ideas about what works and what doesn't in the classroom.

A commitment of a minimum of two semesters is required for exploration and implementation.

Interested in participating? Please apply at:

☐ http://bit.ly/cornell_ateam

Bb Blackboard Updates

New features in Blackboard

In June, Blackboard was upgraded. New features and improvements include:

- Grade Center improvements
- Inline grading
- Date management
- Groups management
- Improved testing options
- Instructor's View to test access logs
- Course Messages notifications
- Student video upload
- SMS and Text-to-Voice notification option

For more details, visit:

☐ http://bbhelp.cit.cornell.edu/?p=1405

See the next page for more Blackboard news

Cornell University

Blackboard Updates

Spring 2014 Blackboard Survey results

Academic Technologies sought feedback from instructors regarding their experience with Blackboard. The majority of the 390 faculty members who responded to the survey invitation sent to all 2,661 faculty have been using Blackboard for six or more semesters and started using Blackboard three or more versions ago.

Overall, most faculty who responded indicate they're satisfied with Blackboard's ability to handle course management tasks. However, they wish they didn't have to copy over their courses each semester.

Two features—Adding Content and Announcements/Emails—meet all the needs of the majority of Blackboard users, while many of the features aren't used by the majority of respondents.

In general, many feel they don't have the time to investigate documentation, consultation, or training, especially when other applications they use are intuitive and fairly easy to learn unassisted.

Many faculty members, while not necessarily eager for a switch to a new course management system, would like drag-and-drop functionality, simpler course reuse, a cleaner interface, fewer clicks to accomplish tasks, and a tool that focuses heavily on the four features that are important to them: adding content, grading, collecting work, and announcements and emails.

Read the full report:

http://acadtech.cit.cornell.edu/?p=606

Blackboard Updates

Course management technologies review

As part of our regular cycle of reviewing new developments in teaching with technology, Academic Technologies is initiating an overview of course management systems (CMS).

In 2007, at the time of the last review of this kind, it was determined that Blackboard would continue to be the CMS supported on campus. Since then, the number of faculty using Blackboard at Cornell has grown. New CMSs have emerged, while the functionality of existing ones has changed, making an updated review worthwhile.

The evaluation project will be conducted during the 2014-2015 academic year, and on its conclusion, results will be presented to the Cornell community.

Training & Resources

Learn more about Blackboard, Turnitin, and LabArchives

Some changes to Blackboard this summer have resulted in a new look and feel for the Grade Center and other features. Sign up for a workshop and learn more.

Classes are limited to 15 individuals and registration closes 24 hours prior to each class. Can't make a class or prefer a more custom experience? E-mail us at: atc_support@cornell.edu.

All classes listed below will be held in Mann 112.

Getting Started with Blackboard
Blackboard is an online tool that lets you deliver course materials, use collaborative tools and much more. In this hands-on session, you'll learn how to navigate Blackboard, add course materials, and organize content. Assessment and Grade Center are not covered in this course.
Thursday, August 14, 1-2:30pm
Friday, August 22, 9-10:30am

Blackboard Assessments and Grade Center
In this class, we'll explore some of Blackboard's more advanced features, including grading, creating assignments, and using forums and chat. Prerequisite: Getting Started with Blackboard or for people currently using Blackboard.
Tuesday, August 19, 9-10:30am
Friday, August 22, 1-2:30pm

Turnitin
Turnitin is plagiarism detection software that scans student work for matched text by comparing the work to a large database of student work, publications, and materials on the Internet. This session covers creating a Turnitin assignment, viewing student work in Turnitin, and grading a Turnitin assignment.
Tuesday, August 12, 11am-Noon
Monday, August 25, 1-2pm

LabArchives Basics
LabArchives is a web-based electronic lab notebook that allows faculty, researchers, TAs and students to store, organize, share and publish laboratory data. The session focuses on basics only and will help participants to get started with LabArchives.
Tuesday, August 12, 9-10am
Monday, August 25, 3-4pm

To register or see more workshops, visit:

http://it.cornell.edu/atregister

MOOCs

Online Course and MOOC update

In collaboration with campus partners including eCornell, the Center for Teaching Excellence, the School of Continuing Education and Cornell University Library, Academic Technologies will continue to develop online courses and experiment with CornellX massive open online course (MOOC) development.

The goals are to contribute to the worldwide community of online and blended learning through deployment of CornellX courses, and to broaden institutional presence by demonstrating effective, scalable, and sustainable online learning results.

Last spring, the university offered its first four MOOCs, allowing anyone, anywhere, to take Cornell classes tuition-free. The CornellX team developed an evaluation plan for the four MOOCs to find out how students perceived the learning in each. In addition, the evaluation and research plans begin to explore the data and experience of online learning at a larger scale.

To process and analyze the massive amounts of MOOC course data generated from the edX platform, a campus-wide team was drawn from Academic Technologies, the Center for Advanced Computing, and CIT's Business Intelligence unit. The team built processes for the large-scale data, and is exploring "big data" and learning analytics tools to be able to analyze the data for each course and CornellX research.

According to Laura Brown, Senior Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Chair of Cornell's Distance Learning Committee, "The MOOCs are providing Cornell with an opportunity to raise the general level of visibility and innovation around online learning, and to engage faculty in ways that we expect to be long-lasting and directly relevant to innovation and best practices for education on campus."

SPOCs and Innovation Projects

Staff from Academic Technologies have been staying busy with the SPOCs (Small Private Online Courses) and Innovation Projects that are part of Cornell's 2014/2015 Distance Learning Initiative grants.

SPOCs are similar to MOOCs, and are based on edX Edge Technology, but have a class size limit of 1,200.

SPOCs being launched in 2014/2015 include:

- Cloud Computing
  Ken Birman, Computer Science

- Problem Solving in Heat and Mass Transfer in a Biological Context
  Ashim Datta, Biological and Environmental Engineering

- Social and Economic Data
  John Abowd and Lars Vilhuber, Economics

 Additional SPOC opportunities have recently been awarded to Barbara Lust, Dick Feldman, Elise West, Mona Olsen, and Steven Ealick; additional information about these SPOCs will be available online soon.

A full list of the projects can be found at:

http://cornellx.cornell.edu/dl-initiatives/

Classroom Technologies
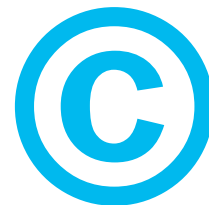
Reminders about Copyright and FERPA

Now that fall is almost here, we'd like to briefly remind instructors that FERPA and copyright concerns may arise when using technology for teaching.

An easy-to-read discussion about FERPA and technology, with examples of common technologies where FERPA rights apply, can be found at: http://acadtech.cit.cornell.edu/ferpa-and-technology/

Cornell offers many resources to assist faculty and instructors with course-related copyright. To find resources about fair use, public domain, open access, authors' rights, and other core copyright concepts, visit: copyright.cornell.edu.

If you have any questions about using a resource in your class, contact Cornell University Library at: copyright@cornell.edu.

Classroom Technologies

Classroom Technology news

Academic Technologies is teaming up with Facilities Services and the CIT Integrated Audio Video Engineering group in a project to improve the classroom technology in learning spaces across campus. Approximately 40-60 classrooms across all colleges will be updated with technology that is designed to be comprehensive and easy to use. Improvements will include: cameras to allow faculty to record their lectures; digital systems that will allow the newest computers to connect to projectors; improved sound; and an easy-to-use interface with standardized labeling and documentation. Six classrooms will be updated by the start of classes this fall, with additional work to be completed during winter and spring breaks and in the early summer of 2015.

Find out more:

✉ atc_support@cornell.edu

Academic Technology Center

Technology centers help with instructional materials

Two Academic Technology Centers (ATC) are available on campus to help prepare or develop instructional technology resources for courses. ATC provides access to computers, software, and multimedia equipment, and help in using technology through the Student Technology Assistant Program.

Services provided by the student assistants include:

- Blackboard support
- Assistance with preparing multimedia course content for classroom or web-based delivery
- Assistance with classroom presentations (including PowerPoint presentations)
- Audio and video services
- Podcasting support

- Updating course websites
- Assistance with online surveys
- Assistance with collaborative tools, including blogs and wikis
- Scanning and digitizing—convert your old visual material to a digital format, and make it easier to distribute and include in presentations.

Have questions? Need help?

Visit us in person at either of our two locations!

📍 124 CCC   9am-5pm Monday–Friday
Closed on university holidays.

📍 G27 Stimson   1pm-5pm Monday–Friday during the semester
Closed on university holidays.

Using WebEx to build community and increase engagement in online courses

Faculty members across campus are finding a variety of uses for the Cornell WebEx web conferencing service. For example, WebEx can be used for faculty office hours as well as to supplement face-to-face and online courses.

For her three-week online summer course, Professor Jenny Barnett chose to use WebEx to build community in her course and allow real-time interactions between students and faculty. Professor Barnett received training from Academic Technologies, after which AT staff acted as mock students in a test session. This allowed Professor Barnett to test attributes of WebEx she wanted to use in her class, including small-group breakout sessions, screen sharing, and playing a video for students to watch together. In addition to helping the professor become familiar with the application, the runthrough also allowed AT to troubleshoot potential technical issues and identify solutions.

"WebEx sessions created a sense of community among students," says Barnett. "They were able to hear and see each other, and the breakout sessions helped further. Students can feel isolated while taking online courses, and this went some way toward negating that possibility."

"I also felt more connected to the students than I would if we had communicated only through writing," she continues. "We were able to comment on and critique readings and assignments in a more involved way--less stilted and more engaged."

The professor found WebEx is easy to use, and says that after a few practice sessions, she felt confident hosting the sessions. Weak internet connections, particularly with students working from Korea, caused some connectivity issues, and some audio issues also occurred, which could detract for some students' ability to actively join in discussions.

Even so, the use of WebEx was positive overall for the course. "When I teach this course in person, it's very discussion-based and I felt it was important to retain this element," says Professor Barnett. "Without WebEx this wouldn't have been possible."

Find out what WebEx can do for you:
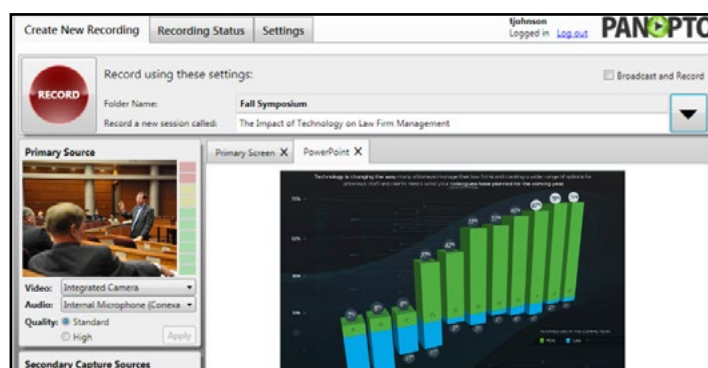✉ atc_support@cornell.edu

User friendly "how-to" documentation:
🖱 http://collabhelp.cit.cornell.edu/web-classroom-with-webex/

Lecture Capture services

Consider recording lectures to:

- Make up missed classes (snow days, travel)
- Flip your classroom (lecture online, interact in the classroom)
- Provide supplemental or tutorial material in support of classroom lectures
- Allow your students to review classroom lectures after they have been presented.

We provide several services to accomplish this. Feel free to contact us at atc_support@cornell.edu if you need help choosing the best fit.

Panopto
Panopto is available at no charge through Blackboard, with options to use the recordings in blogs and custom websites as well. It's a software application that records your computer screen synchronized with your audio and video, and works in conjunction with a server to process and serve your recordings. It can be used on your office computer for out-of-classroom recording, and is also available in selected classrooms that are equipped with a web cam.

Mediasite
Mediasite uses hardware to record your computer screen synchronized with your audio and video. It is usually used in lecture rooms, but also has desktop recording available. Cornell Information Technologies offers Mediasite lecture capture as a for-fee service, and some departments own their own Mediasite units.

WebEx
In addition to live web conferencing, WebEx can be used for lecture capture. Cornell faculty and staff can use WebEx at no charge by logging in at: http://cornell.webex.com.

TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Academic Technologies offers many services and resources to support your teaching and learning needs.

Services

- Webconferencing
- Collaboration tools: discussion boards, blogs, and wikis
- Online tutorial development
- Self-service video recording, lecture capture, video production of course materials, and video storage
- Web-based surveys (Qualtrics)
- Assessment tools, including quizzes, e-portfolios, and online assignments
- i>clicker classroom polling
- Computer labs for instruction. See the Computing Labs map to find the resources you need: mapping.cit.cornell.edu/publiclabs/map
- Course web sites

acadtech.cit.cornell.edu

Getting Help

Self Help:

Visit our help sites for how-tos and answers to frequently asked questions!

pollinghelp.cit.cornell.edu

bbhelp.cit.cornell.edu

eportfoliohelp.cit.cornell.edu

videohelp.cit.cornell.edu

collabhelp.cit.cornell.edu

Set up a consultation with an Academic Technologist:

We provide academic technology consultations to assist in selecting the best technologies to support instructional goals, engage students, enhance lectures, collaborate, and manage large courses.

Contact the Academic Technology Center:

Web	atc.cit.cornell.edu
Email	atc_support@cornell.edu
Call	607-255-9760 (5-9760) M-F, 9am-5pm
Walk in	124 CCC 9am-5pm Monday–Friday
	G27 Stimson 1pm-5pm Monday–Friday during the semester