Course Design: Step 3 – Developing
Promoting Communication in Virtual Campus (Brightspace)
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Teaching Continuity

• 3-step webinar series:
  1. Mapping
  2. Communicating
  3. Developing

  • Communication Tools
Learning outcomes

• By the end of this webinar, you should be able to:
  – Differentiate between the various communication tools available in Virtual Campus
  – Identify best practices
  – Deploy the tools
  – Locate helpful resources
Agenda

• Overview of the communication tools available in Virtual Campus (Brightspace):
  – Announcements
  – E-mail
  – Groups
  – Discussions
Announcements

• Can be used to update and inform students
• Generated and posted within Virtual Campus
• Various control settings for posting
Announcements - Key takeaways . . .

• **Notifications** must be enabled
• Important or urgent message?
  – Consider e-mail
E-mails

• Can be used to update and inform students
• Sent directly from within Virtual Campus
• Two methods available
E-mail - Key takeaways . . .

- "Class List" method most user-friendly of the two
- Useful when there is an urgent message
- Outgoing e-mails only
Groups

• Groups can be linked to a Discussion, an Assignment, or a Quiz

• Several options to create groups:
  – Professor
  – System
  – Student self

• Neat option: groups of 1!
Key takeaways . . .

• Careful with group sizes – people left out
• Groups of 1: reflective journal / logbook
• Professor can modify group membership
• Groups can limit or grant access to activities
Discussions

• Promote exchanges between students, rather than just between student and professor

• Can be used to share, collaborate and discuss:
  – Student productions (videos, concept maps, drawings)
  – A compendium of resources updated by students
  – Biography presentations
  – Debate

• Serve as a reflective journal
Discussions - Key takeaways

• Two methods to create discussion space:
  – You create initial thread + students respond to it
  OR
  – Students create own threads + reply to one another

• Discussions can be linked to groups

• Discussions can be graded
(More) key takeaways . . .

• Professor presence - prepare your own post

• Controversial topics? Consider **moderating**

• Option: have students contribute *before* granting them access to peers' contributions

• Provide guidance → instructions, expectations, due dates, netiquette
Final remarks . . .

• Prepare content before creating in Brightspace
• Consider your course – what do you really need?
• Start slow and focus on a few, well-executed activities
• Be consistent in what tools you use and how you use them
Need help?

• **Tech support – Virtual Campus**
  – 1-866-811-3201 🏠
  – Chat or request for help (form) 🏡
  – Website: Teaching continuity

• **Pedagogical consultation – TLSS Specialist**
  – saea-tlss@uottawa.ca