Blackboard Tips for Faculty  
March 4, 2011

Flood, Flurries, and Flu Course Preparation – Never Cancel Class!

On February 22nd, 2011 CILT hosted a forum: Flood, Flurries, and Flu Course Preparation – Never Cancel Class! Presenters included: Carol Schneweis (Assistant Professor/Assistant Field Coordinator, Social Work); Jody Ralph (Assistant Professor, Nursing); and Joel Pugh (Lecture, Music). If you were unable to attend the forum or if would like to review it, we welcome you to view the recorded presentations and discussions at https://conted.breeze.und.nodak.edu/p47665959/

Many tools and strategies were discussed, including:

- Live virtual classrooms with Wimba Classroom and Adobe Connect  
  - Live virtual classrooms enable live, interactive classes and group collaboration over the Internet. They can be used synchronously to hold classes live from a distance, or asynchronously by granting students access to recorded archives. Contact CILT to find out more about virtual classrooms and see if one of these tools is a good fit for you and your students.

- Recorded lectures with Adobe Presenter, Tegrity or other tools  
  - Adobe Presenter is an add-on to PowerPoint that allows you to record audio, add video, create quizzes, and publish your presentation on the web or to your computer. Presenter is also available to students for course presentations.
  - New for Spring 2011, the Tegrity Lecture Capture system can be used from a multimedia classroom or almost any computer/laptop (with a microphone headset and webcam). Tegrity recordings allow students to view the instructor's audio/video and computer screen. Tegrity’s integration with Blackboard allows the lecture to be posted automatically within the course site for student viewing.
  - Wimba Classroom and Adobe Connect, and some other tools also provide options for lecture recording. Contact CILT for more information about what lecture recording tools may be appropriate for your course.

- Wimba Pronto for office hours or project Collaboration  
  - Wimba Pronto is a communication platform designed to promote collaborative learning with unique features that specifically benefit instructors and students. Pronto’s ability to sync with Blackboards course/organization enrollments allows accessibility to other users in the course/organization and across campus. Use blended audio and video for office hours or group discussion’s, application sharing to provide students with feedback on papers, and the interactive whiteboard for demonstrations and problem solving (i.e. math equations, periodic table of elements, music scales)

- Blogs/Wikis/Discussion Boards for student interaction  
  - Blogs, wikis, and discussion boards are a few examples of the collaboration tools available within Blackboard. They provide opportunities for asynchronous group collaboration and course participation.

It can be challenging to select tools that best fit your learning objectives, course management preferences, and use preferences, but CILT is here to help. If you are feeling overwhelmed or unsure about what tools would work best for you, CILT has several instructional designers and an instructional multimedia designer available to help you with your course. Instructional designers have specialized knowledge of important aspects of teaching and learning, including (but not limited to) learning theories and practices, student engagement strategies, and effective integration of technological tools both in the classroom and in online environments. Instructional multimedia designers are skilled in helping you develop interactive and graphical tools for your courses.
In the beginning weeks of March, CILT is offering workshops on the tools presented and discussed at the forum. To view a detailed workshop schedule and to register, please visit http://und.edu/cio/cilt/workshops/workshops.cfm

You can also find more in-depth information on many of the tools discussed above and at the Flood, Flurries and Flu Preparation: Never Cancel Class! forum by clicking here to view previous weekly tips.

If you have any questions or concerns about your course, please contact CILT to set up an appointment with one of our instructional designers at 701-777-2129 or contact CILT Support at 701-777-6305 for technical support.