



ADEIL 2015, Annual Conference of the Association for Distance Education and Independent Learning

Charleston, South Carolina on October 20-22, 2015

Experiential learning: Overcoming barriers and elevating the online learning experience

Presented by Ms. Cynthia Johnson

In this presentation, Cynthia will discuss how to implement summative assessments for experiential learning experiences in the online environment, and candidly present some of the challenges students and instructors face with the learning process.



"Welcome" Videos Shoot Sessions

Gearing up toward the Spring semester? Come to our Video Shoot Sessions and record the welcome videos for your distance learning courses.

Greet your students with a welcome message, and tell them how to get started in the course. This welcome message should be the first thing students see when they initially log into the course. And hey, we know students prefer video because it allows them to see you as a real human being leading their eLearning experience. Our staff will be available to assist you and walk you through the process of recording your videos.

Nov 16 (2:00 – 5:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 138

Nov 17 (12:00 – 3:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 138

DLAC Meetings

The Distance Learning Advisory Committee (DLAC) was created at the end of 2014, as a cross-functional team focused on providing guidance in the formulation of guidelines and strategies regarding resource allocation and quality accountability for online instructional excellence, as well as improving the overall quality of distance learning at UNT Dallas.

The DLAC group is involved in providing leadership in a number of key areas, including development of appropriate guidelines for online learning as well as research into best practices and faculty/student perceptions of online learning.

Aug 27, Sep 24, Oct 29, Nov 19, (10 AM - 12 PM), Dal2 Rm 209/210

Contact Us!

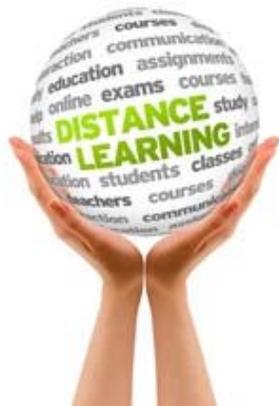
During the fall and spring semesters, the **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies**

invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning.

Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for the workshops and sessions!

Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events

UNTDDistance@unt.edu



DLIT 2015 Fall Events

Full Calendar



About Us

The office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies (DLIT) supports faculty in their pursuit of innovative and creative teaching to improve student motivation and learning by providing resources and services that support teaching in online learning environments.

Meet 'n Greet the Digital Media Instructional Designer!

Instructional technology is about pedagogy, about building community, about collaboration and helping each other imagine and realize teaching and learning goals with the assistance of technology. One of our main goals in the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology is to enhance the teaching and learning process with the use of technology, so it's with great pleasure and excitement that we introduce and welcome Mr. Brian Miller, our new Digital Media Instructional Designer. Please join us in welcoming Brian to the UNT Dallas family, drop by his office and say hi. Meet, greet, and start the conversation! Wednesday, Aug 26 (office hours), Dal 2, Rm 125



Distance Learning Information Table (For Students and Staff)

Come by our Information Table and meet our Blackboard Helpdesk Assistant who will be available to present Distance Learning opportunities and services provided by our office to students and staff.

Wednesday, Sept 2 (12:30 PM – 2:00 PM), Dal 2, Atrium



DLIT will offer workshops year round to guide faculty in the use of technologies as well as classroom and/or computer-mediated pedagogical techniques to support online, blended, and web-enhanced learner-centered instruction. Many of our technology workshops focus on the use of Blackboard Learn to support instruction. Scheduled workshops are listed below. All faculty, full-time and part-time, are welcome to attend. Please let us know if you wish to attend for planning purposes. To request a workshop, submit a consultation request to UNTDDistance@unt.edu

Blackboard Jumpstart Workshops

In this fast paced, focused session you will learn the critical skills about using Blackboard, particularly if you are using it for the first time and need to get your course ready quickly.





Topics will include course management, content organization, basic communication, and using the grade center. The sessions for the Fall 2015 semester will be during Faculty Orientation week. Yes, we know this is BEFORE the semester begins, but that is just the time faculty members might need assistance in preparing their Blackboard courses, especially those who are new to Blackboard. Please drop by and join us in Dal1 Rm 336. Aug 20 (9:30 PM– 12:00 PM) or (2:30 – 5:00 PM)

Blackboard Basics Workshops (For Students)

The Blackboard Basics Workshop is intended for students that are new to Blackboard Learn. The workshop covers such topics as logging into Blackboard, locating your courses, the Course Menu, participating in the Discussion Board, using the Emails and Messages features, submitting assignments, and taking online tests.

Join us in Dal1 Rm 336, on the following days from 2:30 to 5:00 pm
Sept 2, Sept 16, (2:30 PM– 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336

Blackboard Open Labs

Whether you're just starting work on your spring course or putting on those finishing touches in your fall courses, visit our Blackboard Open Labs for advice, assistance, or simply a collegial place to work. We will have worksheets, information and ideas on constructing assignments. Staff from the Office of DLIT will be available to discuss online/hybrid/traditional course design and help with Blackboard or other instructional technology. Please note, there is no formal program and there's no need to make an appointment. This is a drop-in-when-ever-you-can event.

Sept 9, Oct 14, Oct 21, Oct 28, Nov 18, (2:30 PM – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336



BITS - Blackboard Innovative Teaching Series

This faculty training program will bring best practices and evolved online pedagogy training to you in a concise and effective series. Each session will consist of a 60 min pre-recorded webinar plus 90 min hands-on practice that have been designed for educators and will be led by our staff

members. These sessions are designed to share innovative practices — content that is applicable to educators of all disciplines.

BITS #1 - How to Engage Students from the Start

Presenter: Miles McGeehan, Bozeman School District

Discussion boards, blogs, and wikis are promising tools for instructors to facilitate dynamic communication and collaboration activities to enhance any curriculum. However we've all witnessed the use of these tools fall flat within instructional settings. This session will share strategies and examples modeling how to create robust and engaging activities right from the start.

Aug 27 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336

BITS #2 - Best Practices for Communicating With Your Students Through Blackboard

Presenter: Misty Cobb, Blackboard

This session provides evidence from the academic literature that establishes effective practices for course communication by emphasizing how the effective use of Blackboard features are meeting student needs and increasing student retention. Methods discussed include face-to-face, LMS, email, text, notifications, and more.

Sept 23 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336



2015 National Distance Learning Week

Sponsored by the **United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)**, **National Distance Learning Week (NDLW)** will be celebrated from **November 9 -13, 2015**.

According to USDLA, "There is a growing transformation in education, and it's called distance learning ... using the latest technology to help students learn, distance learning stimulates you in ways a simple lecture can't."

This is certainly the case at UNT Dallas where students are surrounded by opportunities to connect through technology both in and out of the classroom. UNT Dallas offers hybrid and fully online courses, but also integrates technology into the more traditional classroom setting, in addition to a variety of student support.

To celebrate this transformation in education, the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology will host during this week several webinars and events to highlight the different ways technology helps students connect, learn and succeed. *More info to come.*



UNTD Distance Learning Showcase

This is the main event during NDLW where we seek to promote and celebrate the tremendous growth and accomplishments occurring to date in distance learning at UNT Dallas. Share the excitement of distance learning with your peers and colleagues at UNT Dallas.



This overview session will take participants through various distance learning courses being designed at UNT Dallas. It will demonstrate the variety of learning strategies and educational technologies used and present a sampling of innovative resources that may be implemented in other courses/programs.

Nov 10 (12 PM), TBA

DLIT participation in Conferences

During this semester DLIT will be representing UNT Dallas by actively participating and presenting at the following conferences:



Online Learning Consortium International Conference: Shaping the Future of Online Learning
Orlando, Florida on October 14-16, 2015

'**Medicion del uso significativo de las herramientas tecnologicas de Blackboard en la educacion a distancia**' (*A Study of Student Engagement Through the Use of Blackboard Tools in Distance Learning Courses*)
Information Session presentation (45 min session in front of audience)
Presented by Mr. Arturo Cole



'Green Screening with an iPad?! NO WAY!'

Discovery Session presentation, presented using a laptop in a table for a session that allows for interactive 1:1 discussions between presenters and attendees during one of four 45-minute Discovery Sessions.
Presented by Mr. Arturo Cole

Excellence in Online Teaching Awards

Beginning this academic year the Distance Learning Advisory Committee will be selecting two faculty members to be honored, during the spring semester, with the annual Excellence in Online Teaching Awards: Innovative Teaching with Technology and Outstanding Online Course. The purpose of these awards is to recognize outstanding work by our faculty and to promote effective practices for online and distance learning in all disciplines.

All UNTD instructors of record are eligible to be nominated and, if nominated, to submit an award application.

Sep 08 - Accept nominations

Oct 18 - Deadline for nominations

Oct 25 - Deadline to submit award application



eLearning Faculty Learning Communities

A faculty learning community (FLC) comprises an interdisciplinary group of faculty devoted to enhancing teaching, learning, and the university experience who engage in active, collaborative exploration around a common learning issue. Each FLC will grow at its own pace and embrace a unique topic. The FLCs will meet regularly, either in person or virtually, but input from FLC members will help determine the frequency and format for meetings, the duration, and the goals and outcomes—including any projects to be carried out—for each FLC. We are very excited to provide such

rich opportunities for community building, interdisciplinary collaboration, and explorations of online teaching and learning!

Newbies

Is this your first year teaching a Distance Learning course at UNT Dallas? Orientation was great but this is “the rest of the story”- addressing questions and concerns. Join Arturo, Director of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology, to discuss and learn more about teaching an eLearning course.

Sep 3 (2:00 – 3:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 209/210

Hybrid/Online Teaching

Whether you are a veteran or have just had that scary conversation with your Dean, join us as we discuss the wonders, joys and pitfalls of online and hybrid teaching. Cynthia, our Instructional Design Coordinator, will guide this group of faculty as they grow and learn from the blessings and curses of teaching in an online environment.

Sep 17 (2:00 – 3:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 209/210

Teaching with Technology

Explore a range of software and web-based tools to enhance teaching and learning. No matter if you are teaching a fully online, a hybrid, or on-ground sessions join Brian, our Digital Media Instructional Designer, to and learn how you can incorporate educational technologies as a means to enliven the classroom and promote active learning experiences.

Sep 10 (2:00 – 3:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 209/210

Let's Meet Up!

Meetups are colleagues getting together to “do something, learn something, share something, change something.” This space is for any faculty (FT or adjunct) or staff member that wants to meet either in person or virtually to talk about and lead the eLearning transformation at UNT Dallas.

Meetup 1 – Let's **do** something!

Meetup 2 – Let's **learn** something!

Meetup 3 – Let's **share** something!

Meetup 4 – Let's **change** something!

Sep 8 (3:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 122

Oct 6 (3:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 122

Nov 3 (3:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal2 Rooftop

Dec 1 (3:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal2 Rooftop



BITS #3 - Using Bloom's Digital Taxonomy to Maximize Student Engagement

Presenter: Marcie Newton, College of Saint Rose

Today's learners have a wide variety of communication tools at their fingertips, including blogs, wikis, and

discussion boards right within Blackboard. What are the similarities and differences between how students use these tools to engage in Higher Order Thinking as described in Bloom's Taxonomy? How can we maximize student engagement using these valuable tools within My Blackboard? Marcie Newton of the College of Saint Rose will answer these questions and offer effective teaching strategies based on Bloom's Digital Taxonomy to encourage student engagement.

Oct 07 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336



BITS #4 - Best Practices in Creating a Welcoming Course Environment

Presenter: Cheryl Cyrus, Blackboard

How to create a warm, welcoming course environment for your students. Cyrus, a former teacher, explains that since most classes begin with welcoming students and an overview of the course and syllabus, it is important that instructors learn how to best set the tone early on in their courses. In

this session, you will learn some quick tips and best practices for creating a welcoming environment and preparing your students for success. Topics will include how to leverage Blackboard features such as Course Links and the Video Anywhere Building Block.

Nov 4 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336



Join the DLIT team for our *NEW* Brown Bag Series. All UNT Dallas faculty and staff may attend and it's free of charge-just bring your lunch or stop by the cafe before the workshops and come learn with us. You won't want to miss these! Our series will include:

Evolving Learning for the New Digital Era

“Next gen” may be an apt phrase to describe the evolving learning environment in an increasingly digital era. Colleges and universities are no longer taking their first steps into the use of digital tools for either in-person or online instruction. Rather this is an era of refinement of strategies. In this session we'll discuss current issues related to learning in the digital era.

Sept 10 (12:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 209 or 210

Quick Start to Captioning

Learn about accessibility laws and compliance, how to create closed captions, getting the right caption format and more. This session will cover Section 508 accessibility compliance, creation of closed captions, explanation of caption formats and video player compatibility, as well as an overview of automated workflows and integration with lecture capture and video platforms.

Oct 5 (12:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 209 or 210

Using Technology to Foster Collaboration in Education: How New Thinking is Shaping How we Teach the Next Generation of Learners

How we think about the value of collaborative skills has undergone



dramatic change, as both technology and the workplace (and workplace expectations) have evolved. Educators, parents, and learners say that collaborative skills are important, even as employers are asking for graduates who are effective collaborators in the workplace. But how well are we doing as a community in promoting it -- whether via social interactions or use of technologies?

Nov 5 (12:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 209 or 210



Lunch & Learns

The name says it all, we will feed your body and mind. The seat capacity to this event will be limited, please sign up to reserve your space. Join us!

Issues and Trends in Edtech in 2015

What is in store for technology enhanced teaching and learning in higher education in 2015? Will the higher education reauthorization act impact the growth of competency-based education and hinder the development of adaptive and personalized learning programs? Will the Internet of Things (IoT) reach higher education? Join WCET's visionaries and leaders

for a discussion of what edtech trends and issues are on the horizon.

Sept 29 (12:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 209 or 210

WEBINARS

» Making Schools a Game Worth Playing: Digital Games in the Classroom

Most of us have seen the excitement and extreme task commitment involved with playing a digital game. A vast majority of the globalized world plays video games as a pastime or hobby. If instructors could somehow harness the excitement and engagement of playing digital games in the classrooms, then students would truly experience heads-on, brains-on learning using the digital media that is an everyday, always-on part of their lives outside of schools. This interactive webinar will help instructors and curriculum specialists to:

- * Find, critique, and evaluate digital games using search and evaluation strategies to determine if they are suitable for instruction.
- * Integrate a wide range of digital games into the curriculum utilizing standards such as the Common Core.
- * Explore the instructional strategies essential to making a digital game-based learning experience a success for students.
- * Determine meaningful assessment processes such as product and process rubrics, as well as self and/or peer evaluation practices for digital game-based learning experiences.

Presenter: Ryan Schaaf, Assistant Prof. of Technology at Notre Dame of Maryland University
Sept 9 (3:00 PM - 4:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 122 or join virtually

» How do I know if my PDF is accessible?

PDF files are not going away anytime soon so it is important to make sure that all individuals, including those with disabilities can retrieve the information contained in them. This session will give a definition of what an accessible PDF should include as well as show how to test a PDF for accessibility. The session will also look at forms and tables. Participants should have a basic understanding of accessible PDF principles such as tagging and navigational structure.

Speaker: Christy Blew, IT Accessibility Specialist, University of IL - Urbana-Champaign
Sept 17 (1:00-2:30 PM), Dal2 Rm 122 or join virtually



» Characteristics of Effective Feedback

It's not the provision of feedback, but the students' use of it that makes feedback effective. In this two-part webinar series, participants will learn a framework for looking at how feedback is given and how it is used. We will then apply this framework to examples of oral and

written feedback.

In part one of the series, participants will learn the characteristics of feedback that are most likely to be useful to students. Susan M. Brookhart, Ph.D., will show educators how to examine feedback episodes for evidence of learning, and how to couple each feedback episode with an immediate opportunity for students to use the information.

Presented by Susan M. Brookhart, Ph.D., Consultant, Brookhart Enterprises LLC
Sept 29 (4:00-5:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 122 or join virtually

» Social Media, Accessibility and Disability Inclusion

Time to use Social Media to strengthen the voices of the community of individuals with disabilities? This session will provide strategies to assure that your message is accessible and relevant to the community of persons with disabilities. Social Media is providing a huge opportunity for our community including recruiting, employment, advocacy, education and human rights advancements. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) there are 1 in 7 people in the world that have a disability. Social Media is a conduit that can strength and empower the voices of persons with disabilities. However Social Media must be accessible from both a design issue but also a bandwidth and digital divide perspective. This session will show ways that we can use Social Media to empower persons with disabilities, find our voices and address accessibility so everyone can participate.

Speaker: Debra Ruh, Global Disability Inclusion Strategist

Nov 19 (1:00-2:30 PM), Dal2 Rm 122 or join virtually



Tech Tips: Videos for Teaching & Learning at UNT Dallas Showcase

Videos have incredible potential to engage students in teaching and learning. Join us in this session where Daisy and Leslie, our Digital Media Specialists, will showcase the different types of videos the office can assist you with. Faculty will get the opportunity to see all the different options (techniques) available for them to incorporate video to their courses, whether it's for the use in the traditional classroom, hybrid, or online. This is an excellent opportunity to see how video can create a social presence in an online classroom setting and how faculty can engage their students.

Oct 20 (1:00-2:00 PM), Dal2 Rm 209/210



Grading Cafe

Gearing up for Mid-term or Finals grading? Have trouble setting up your Grade Center on Blackboard? Don't know how to create and manage grade center columns? Please join us for our open "Grading Cafe." Staff from the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technology will be glad to assist you on how to organize your Full Grade Center.

Mid-Term: Sep 30 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336

Finals: Dec 02 (2:30 – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336

Free tea and coffee, snacks, and a chance to break out of your office for a couple of hours!

