

HWS Information Technology Services Bulletin

Number: 2009-19

Date: May 7, 2009

Title: Blackboard 9 Upgrade

Description:

Over the next few months IT Services will be working to upgrade HWS' Learning Management System, Blackboard, to the most current version. You do not need to do anything at this time. Blackboard contains a suite of collaborative tools and is used by a variety of constituents to organize and share information such as course content, Board of Trustee documents and student club documents.

IT Services conducted a faculty survey regarding Blackboard last semester and reviewed the findings with the Faculty IT Committee. The results of that survey were used in preparing for this upgrade. The new version offers an improved interface and enhancements such as RSS news feeds, easier customization of both the course menu and homepage, enhanced facilitation of student group work and improved access to the control panel. Additionally, the new version allows users to customize the language settings on the main menus to Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, Russian, Portuguese, Italian, French, Spanish and German.

IT Services will release more details, including training and learning opportunities on the new version, over the next several weeks. IT Services will offer a series of educational opportunities to interact with and learn the new version. Please send any questions you have regarding Blackboard to the Instructional and Research Technology Team at instructionaltech@hws.edu so IT Services can assure that all questions are addressed in a comprehensive FAQ document.

As part of the standard process, all current courses will be made unavailable on May 24th and archived. A reminder bulletin will be sent to all network users in the next week.

Contact: If you have any questions or concerns, please contact IT Services at Helpdesk@hws.edu or call 315-781-HELP.

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