



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY @ PHILA U



**A Guide for Using Technology
in the Classroom**

September, 2006

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Blackboard Update—September, 2006



Blackboard at Philadelphia University

Below, you will find our current usage of Blackboard at Philadelphia University. We experienced a slight decrease in usage from the fall semester of 2005. However, the good news is that we have over 20 faculty members using Blackboard for the first time and are experiencing success with the content management system.

If you are interested in doing the following, then Blackboard may be your solution:

- Remind your students of important due dates and exams;

- Easily send e-mail to all of your students;
- Give easy access to the syllabus and documents that are important for your classes;
- Collaborate asynchronously through a Discussion Board to encourage higher order discussions in class;
- Online office hours;
- Give your students mini-exams to test their knowledge of your material;

If you are interested in learning more about using Blackboard for the first time, please let me know.

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	# of Sections	# of Instructors
School of Architecture:	36	26
School of Business Administration:	56	23
School of Design & Media:	14	12
School of Engineering & Textiles:	31	13
School of Liberal Arts:	78	33
School of Science & Health:	64	40
Continuing & Professional Studies:	19	14
Other (Non-Credit Co-op, Co-op 2):	1	1
Use of Blackboard—30.95%	299	162

Blackboard Tips 101—Using RSS Feeds



Did you ever see this logo on a magazine, newspaper or journal web

site? Maybe you saw a logo with that same color that simply says, RSS. What does this mean?

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. RSS is a time-saving

way for you to receive news and information updates (often called "RSS feeds", "news feeds" or simply "feeds") from your favorite Web sites and blogs.

Typically RSS feeds consist of headlines and short summaries of new articles, blog entries or search results. The breadth of current events and even topic-

specific research that students could collect could go a long way to assisting them with research or further study. It's one reason why RSS can be a great help at delivering content and information that improves media and information literacy skills

Contact me for more information on using RSS with Blackboard.

In this issue:

Blackboard Update: By the Numbers	1
Blackboard Tips 101	1
Integration Tips	2
iTunes University Update	2
Faculty Spotlight— Tech Integration	3
Tech Bytes—Faculty Development	3

Special points of interest:

- Only 31% of undergraduate/graduate courses use Blackboard.
- RSS Feeds popular with distributing educational content
- Podcasting—A new way to collaborate with your students?



Tips for Using Technology in Your Classroom

10 Ways For Making PowerPoint Come Alive

Adapted from: Megan Lappi—
Gettyworks

1. Images should suit your identity and message you want to convey.
2. Use bullet points and show one with each mouse click; don't give students tons to read.
3. Use simple and easily explainable graphs and charts.
4. Four bullet points, one headline, one graphic on each slide.
5. Use only 2-3 colors per slide.
6. Sans serif font is easiest to read; 24 point for body and 28 point for headline
7. Keep a consistent look and feel

for each slide.

8. Design your own template that conveys your message or search for PowerPoint templates on the web.
9. Use a maximum of two different transitions per presentation.
10. If you use animations and sounds, they should fit the message you are conveying.

Avoid "PowerPoint Poisoning!"

Blackboard Efficiency

Do you teach 2-3 sections of the same subject and wish there was an easier way of managing your content and class on Blackboard? Why not combine all of your sections into one class in Blackboard? In order to do this, you need to do the following:

1. Fill out the course request form at <http://www.philau.edu/ITS/bbreq.htm>
2. Instruct me to combine your classes in the **Special Instructions** area.
3. Send me a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that contains your class roster copied from WebAdvisor
4. I will create a 999 section for you that will contain all of your students.

Just one more way to make your job a little easier!



iTunes University—UPDATE

Podcasting is Coming!

Philadelphia University is one of many schools across the country that are launching iTunes University from Apple Computer. iTunes University provides 500GB of space to host audio and video podcasts along with enhanced podcasts using PowerPoint, video, audio, images and more.

I am working with Public Relations and Information Technology to create our web interface that you will be able use in your teaching. The portal is very easy to use for faculty and staff. Students will also have the ability to create and share

content with the faculty.

To see what iTunes University looks like at two other schools, visit:

<http://itunes.stanford.edu>

<http://itunes.berkeley.edu>

These examples are the public side, but they also have a password-protected side as well.

We have three workshops on how to create Podcasts coming up soon on **September 28, October 24 and November 30.**

Register now and bring your headphones!!



A Guide for Using Technology in the Classroom

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Technology Integration Spotlight -Monica Hahn-Koenig

While I have been using Blackboard for a few semesters, until recently my History of Western Art site had mainly been a static repository. I posted my syllabus there, uploaded supplemental images and documents, and linked to relevant and interesting websites. No student-instructor or student-student interaction took place there. This semester, in addition to using it as I have in the past, I use Blackboard to engage my students in a number of ways. Once a week they can chat with me from anywhere during my online office hours. They can post questions and observations about various topics on the class Bulletin Board (students have posted about The daVinci Code – fact and fiction, and compared Demi Moore to the Venus of Willendorf). Before the midterm I plan to conduct an online review session that students can attend anywhere they find an Internet connection (and I can teach in my pajamas if I like!). I'll be able to present images, chat and use the interactive screen like a chalkboard.

The Blackboard site has also made communication among the participants in a collaborative project much easier. I have created group pages through which the students may contact each other through email or chat, and by leaving messages on the bulletin board. This semester's collaborative project itself exists purely online, with students from both sections of my course working together. Each group will design a wiki (a publicly edited website) that summarizes the major artistic movements and styles of each unit in the textbook. The first group has completed the assignment, with mixed success. I'm examining the assignment and the results, and working on ways to improve the results of the next group's wiki.

In a lecture survey course that is so often one-sided, as the instructor who is always pressed for time spends most of the contact hours talking while the students listen, it's important to find a way to engage the students. I hope that integrating technology into my courses will help them to take a more active role in their learning.

Faculty Development—Tech Bytes



“Tech Bytes” - The new Faculty Development Instructional Technology Workshop Series is in full swing this semester. These sessions are for full-time and adjunct professors as well as staff, students and the university community.

Come explore such topics as:

- Podcasting in Education;
- Creating effective presentations with PowerPoint;
- Using multimedia in the classroom;
- Using ERes
- Getting the most out of your

Blackboard course site

All of these courses are held during the activity period on Tuesday or Thursday from 11:15—12:45 in the Tuttleman Center Room 213.

For a schedule of workshops, go to:

<http://www.philau.edu/ITS/workshops.htm>

or

<http://www.philau.edu/ITS/calendar.htm>

If you do not see a topic here that you are interested in learning, please contact me and I will arrange a time to work with you.