



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY @ PHILA U



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

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Blackboard Update—October, 2006



Blackboard at Philadelphia University

The middle of the semester is upon us and use of Blackboard at Philadelphia University is becoming increasingly more popular. Last week alone, there were **13866** page views within the Blackboard system.

You may be thinking about implementing Blackboard for the first time next semester and now is the time to start thinking about using the course management system for your classes. We will be making an announcement on November 27, 2006 with regards to submitting requests for Blackboard courses for the spring semester. Consider implementing this technology into your courses and see how it can benefit you and your students.

If you are currently using Blackboard, consider using the following tools:

- **Discussion Board**—Facilitation of threaded discussion to enable students to discuss a topic before they get to class. They will be more prepared for your classroom discussion.
- **Assessments**—Online quizzes to test your students knowledge of your material. See below for how to enable timed quizzes.
- **Assignment Manager/ Gradebook**—Students can submit their assignments online and you can grade them without collecting papers.

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

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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?

Blackboard Tips 101—Timing Tests



As you may know, you can set a time limit to assessments in Blackboard.

However, when students take the test and the timer runs out, the student can still finish the test. With the Blackboard "Endtime Counter Script," you

can set the test to automatically submit when the time runs out on the test.

This script is written to cause the test to submit 10 seconds before the actual time is up, to allow time for the submission process -- though you will encounter some cases where it takes longer than 10 seconds

to submit, resulting in a "Needs Grading" message.

This script is entered as part of the instructions for the test and the Firefox web browser is needed to input the script.

Contact me for more information on using the Endtime Counter Script.



Tips for Using Technology in Your Classroom

Technology Integration Web Sites:

There are a growing number of web sites where you can find technology activities for your courses. The following is a list of some web sites that are worth checking out in your abundant spare time 😊

- <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluwebn/index.cfm>—**Blue Web'n** is an online library of 2035 outstanding Internet sites categorized by subject, grade level, and format
- <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/index.html>—**Filamentality** is a fill-in-the-

blank tool that guides you through picking a topic, searching the Internet, gathering good Internet links, and turning them into online learning activities/Webquests.

- <http://www.irt.org/articles/js151/index.htm>—Research on use of Java Applets in Education. Includes uses for Math, Chemistry and Physics faculty
- <http://www.museumnetwork.com/> - Visit museums around the world.

PB Wiki

Wikipedia defines a wiki as, “a type

of website that allows the visitors themselves to easily add, remove and otherwise edit and change some available content.” It's like a shared whiteboard online.

We use PBWiki.com as a host for wiki's here at Philadelphia University. Several professors are utilizing this technology to enable their classes to share information resources, share links to research tools and conducting group collaborations where everyone in the classroom can benefit from the interactions of their classmates.

If you are interested in implementing this free technology in your classroom, contact me for a visit.

iTunes University—UPDATE

iTunes University is HERE!

Philadelphia University is one of many schools across the country that are launching iTunes University from Apple Computer.

The PhilaU Podcasting Pilot Group which consists of 13 administrators, faculty and staff held their first meeting on Friday, October 15 and brainstormed several ideas on how this technology can be implemented on our campus.

If you are interested in seeing the

results of this meeting and our plans moving forward, please contact me.

Also, if you are interested in learning how to podcast, I can work with you anytime that is convenient to you.

We have one more workshop on how to create Podcasts coming up soon on

- **November 30**

Register now and bring your headphones!!



**iTunes U Web Site
COMING SOON!**

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Technology Integration Spotlight —Dr. Russell Pritchard

Dr. Russell Pritchard is a professor in the Master's of Instructional Design & Technology program at Philadelphia University. Recently, I sat down with him to discuss his use of technology in the classroom environment.

Russ uses the Blackboard Assessment Manager to design short (10 question) quizzes that are assigned to his students when they complete an assigned reading for a class. A variety of questions including multiple choice and short answer are used to ascertain students learning before they arrive in class. Russ grades the quiz before class and has a keen sense of what the students do and do not know before they arrive for his class. Russ states, "With this type of assessment tool, I am able to move beyond the knowledge, comprehension and application stages of Bloom's taxonomy. Knowing that my students have the basic knowledge about the topic, I can move my lecture and discussion directly into the analysis, synthesis and evaluation stages of the taxonomy and dig deeper into their minds for authentic learning."

When I asked him if this can be applied to undergraduate learners as well, he says, "Any learner can be led in the direction of using higher order thinking skills to analyze a given topic. The key is to get the basic knowledge down before class begins so deeper discussions can take place during the class." He has used this approach for about 18 months and he is able to use the discovery and guided inquiry modes of teaching instead of just teaching the facts.

Russ is also experimenting with using podcasts and iTunes University to have students record 5-10 minute summaries of class discussions that can be reviewed by the students at a later time while they complete projects and other assignments for his class.

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.