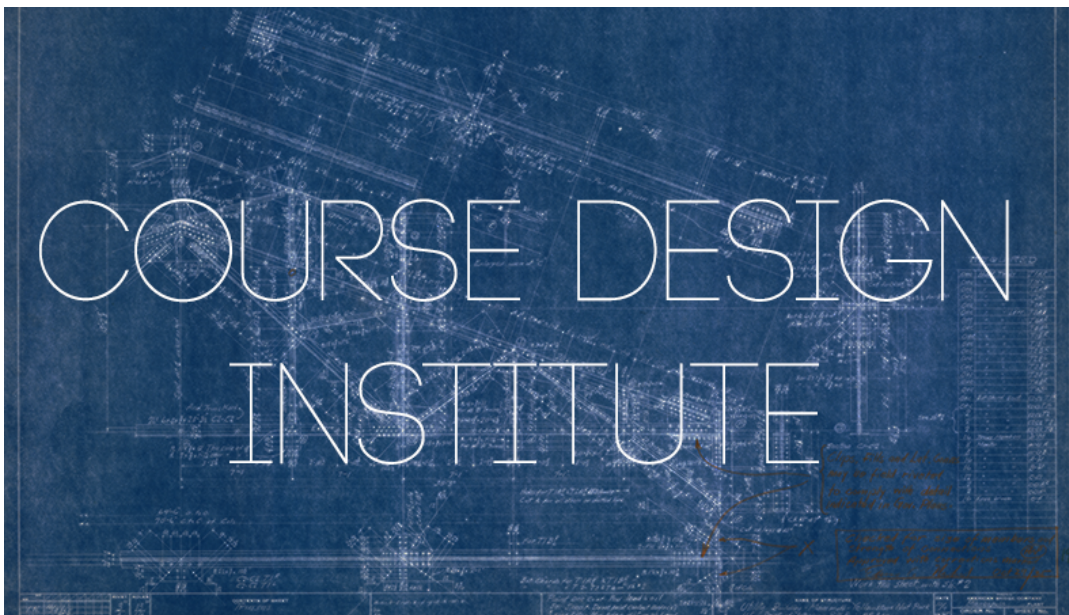# UMSL | Center for Teaching and Learning

April Newsletter

The new learning management system is ready to go! You now have access to all your summer and fall courses on Canvas.

Log in to Canvas
Request a Course Copy to Canvas

Apply for the Course Design Institute

May 22-25, 8:30 - 4:30 PM

Are you teaching a new course next year? **Or ready to redesign one you've already taught in Canvas?** Interested in aligning the components of your course to intentionally foster significant student learning? If so, come and join colleagues from across campus in an intensive four-day working institute. Together participants will focus on the role of course design in the overall act of teaching; write learning outcomes that will provide focus for the course activities and assessment. By the end of the week, participants will have substantial work completed towards a new or revised course design.

[Application and Eligibility](#)

Back in Action

By: Dylan Herx

In five short weeks, final exams will begin. What can you do now to help ensure a stress-free path for both you and your students?

- **Help your students arrange a study session for your final**.
  We all want our students to succeed and what better way to help them by setting aside 10 minutes at the end of a class session to help them organize a study session. Or if possible, set aside one class period where you can go over areas of confusion for your students.

- **Let students get a jump on preparation by giving out the criteria early.**
  Build a rubric for your final project or share an outline of key points for your final exam to help students understand what they'll be assessed on.

- **Reach out to at-risk students to let them know the score they need to make a passing grade.**
  While this could add stress, if done in a way that is caring and collaborative, it can help a motivate a student to begin reviewing content instead of waiting until a later time. Offer to meet with each student and go over a past exam or project to highlight areas that might need improvement.

- **Get a jump on moving your summer or fall course to Canvas by attending a workshop now.**
  Don't wait until the last minute! Give yourself time and space to think about how to chart the best course of action for moving your summer or fall courses to UMSL's new learning management system. You can now even request a Blackboard course be copied into Canvas so you can see what your course looks like in the new system.

Submit Your Proposal for the Focus on Teaching and Technology Conference!

Deadline: May 1, 2017

The FTTC is an annual two-day regional conference held on the UMSL campus that hosts faculty, staff, and students from universities, community colleges, and K-12 schools. Our new conference format features a blend of concurrent sessions and workshops throughout both days of the conference. Join us for Thursday, Friday, or both days as we celebrate teaching and technology.

[Submit a proposal](#)

Teaching with Canvas This Summer!

There's no better time than summer to try out UMSL's new Learning Management System, Canvas. Join a workshop offered by the CTL or Faculty Resource Center to see how easy it is to move your Blackboard course over. You can be up-and-running with Canvas in no time!

See the entire list of Canvas Workshops

Friday, April 7
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
2 PM - 3:30 PM
Teaching with Canvas 101
Get a jumpstart on the LMS migration with this workshop designed to get you ready to teach your next course in Canvas.
Register

Monday, April 10
Express Scripts Hall 103
8 AM - 9:30 AM
Getting to Know Canvas
This workshop will introduce participants to our new learning management system (LMS) Canvas and provide an overview of its features and functionality. FRC staff will present an overview of the Canvas layout, including course organization and management. We will also address questions and concerns regarding the migration from Blackboard (MyGateway) to Canvas. Bring a colleague and join us for this hands-on workshop.

Register

Wednesday, April 12
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
2 PM - 3:30 PM
Designing Great Discussions in Canvas
Online discussions can build community, develop thinking and writing skills, and promote broad student participation. This workshop provides background and practical knowledge needed to use online discussions successfully in your class, including how to create discussions in Canvas, VoiceThread, and other tools.
Register

Wednesday, April 19
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
5:30 PM - 7 PM
Canvas After Dark
Is your 9-5 schedule packed to the gills? Come learn about Canvas after work. We'll have fresh coffee and answers to your questions.
Register

Friday, April 21
Express Scripts Hall 103
8 AM - 9:30 AM
Exploring Canvas Tools
Canvas has a selection of tools which foster engagement and partnership between faculty and students. In this workshop, participants will learn how to create discussions, groups and online quizzes. In addition, this session will cover third party tools, including Kaltura, Panopto and Google Docs. Bring a colleague and please join the FRC staff for this hands-on workshop.
Register

Faculty Colloquia: UMSL's Tenure/Promotion Procedures and Guidelines for Preparing Dossiers*

Tuesday, April 20
Lucas Hall 589
Noon-1:30 PM

*Designed for chairs or members of promotion committees who will guide an applicant through the process of promotion.

Members of the Senate ATP and NTT Promotion Committees clarify areas of the UMSL Tenure and Promotion Procedures that are often misinterpreted, and offer wisdom about preparing dossiers that provide committee members with the information they need, in a format they can easily grasp. This colloquium focuses on reviewing the procedures that kick into action after candidates file their initial factual record, alerting responsible faculty to frequently-made mistakes, and providing hints about what committee members look for in a dossier. Co-sponsor: Faculty Senate.

[Register](#)

Join the Summer Cohort of Online in 9 or DIY with a Guide!

Weekly beginning May 16

Take your online course to the next level by participating in a 9-week series designed to help you efficiently develop or redesign your course. By the end of the series, you will have a completely finished course site, confidence with new technologies and strategies for managing your time and students.

If you've already completed Online in 9 and want to develop another online course at UMSL, consider our new DIY with a Guide program, where you'll be able to work independently on your course while checking in with an instructional designer for feedback. This program also includes four lunch-and-learn meetings with your fellow colleagues to learn from their experiences teaching online courses.

Register for Online in 9
Register for DIY with a Guide

Upcoming CTL Events

April

Thursday, April 6
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
12 Noon - 1:30 PM
myVita for Promotion
Join colleagues in this hands-on workshop to learn the basics about adding your accomplishments in research, teaching, and service activity data in myVITA.
Register

Friday, April 7
Express Scripts Hall 107 (ESH107)
10:00 AM - 12 Noon
CUT Unit 5 Workshop: Negotiating Your Salary
Register | More Information

Wednesday, April 12
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
2:00 - 3:30 PM
Designing Great Discussions in Canvas
Online discussions can build community, develop thinking and writing skills, and promote broad student participation. This workshop provides background and practical knowledge needed to use online discussions successfully in your class, including how to create discussions in Canvas, VoiceThread, and other tools.

[Register](#)

Tuesday, April 18
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
12 Noon - 1:30 PM
DIY with a Guide, Session 3: Testing
The new DIY with a Guide program offers faculty a self-paced opportunity to design a course in collaboration with an instructional designer in the CTL. This program is reserved for those faculty who have already successfully completed Online in 9. It is structured to build on what you learned in Online in 9 to design a next-level, quality-assured online course with carefully integrated technologies and instructional strategies to achieve course goals. Though the program is self-paced, the cohort will meet 4 times over lunch to share ideas and get valuable feedback from peers.
[Register](#)

Thursday, April 20
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
12 Noon - 1:30 PM
Faculty Colloquia: UMSL's Tenure/Promotion Procedure and Guidelines for Preparing Dossiers: Guidance from the Senate Committees for Chairs of Departments and Ad Personam Committees
*Designed for chairs or members of promotion committees who will guide an applicant through the process of promotion.
Members of the Senate ATP and NTT Promotion Committees clarify areas of the UMSL Tenure and Promotion Procedures that are often misinterpreted, and offer wisdom about preparing dossiers that provide committee members with the information they need, in a format they can easily grasp. This colloquium focuses on reviewing the procedures that kick into action after candidates file their initial factual record, alerting responsible faculty to frequently-made mistakes, and providing hints about what committee members look for in a dossier. Co-sponsor: Faculty Senate.
[Register](#)

May

Sunday, May 1
Online
Proposals Due - Focus on Teaching and Technology Conference
The FTTC is an annual two-day regional conference held on the UMSL campus that hosts faculty, staff, and students from universities, community colleges, and K-12 schools. Our conference format features a blend of concurrent

sessions and workshops throughout both days of the conference.
[Submit a Proposal](#)

Tuesday, May 9
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
12 Noon - 1:30 PM
DIY with a Guide, Session 4: Reflect
The new DIY with a Guide program offers faculty a self-paced opportunity to design a course in collaboration with an instructional designer in the CTL. This program is reserved for those faculty who have already successfully completed Online in 9. It is structured to build on what you learned in Online in 9 to design a next-level, quality-assured online course with carefully integrated technologies and instructional strategies to achieve course goals. Though the program is self-paced, the cohort will meet 4 times over lunch to share ideas and get valuable feedback from peers.
[Register](#)

Week of May 14
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
Tuesdays, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Fridays, 10:00 AM - 12 Noon
Online
Online in 9 Begins!
Take your online course to the next level by participating in a 9-week series designed to help you efficiently develop or redesign your course. By the end of the series, you will have a completely finished course site, confidence with new technologies and strategies for managing your time and students. Join your colleagues in an interdisciplinary small group to share ideas and learn new tools and strategies guided by research-based, national standards.
[Register](#) l [More Information](#)

Thursday, May 18
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
12 Noon - 1:30 PM
Collaborative Learning with Canvas
Collaborative assignments can give students opportunities to engage with disciplinary content, address authentic complex problems, and build the valuable team communication and project development skills they will need in their professional lives. Such work also can be rife with obstacles: student confusion, grading issues, and complications associated with collaborating on projects outside of class. In this workshop, participants will learn how to design group work that addresses common problems in advance, learn how to scaffold

and support group work to gradually build student progress, and experience how Canvas supports student-centered learning for group assignments.
Register

Monday, May 22 - Thursday, May 25
Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)
All-day
Course Design Institute
Are you teaching a new course next year? Or ready to redesign one you've already taught? Interested in aligning the components of your course to intentionally foster significant student learning? If so, come and join colleagues from across campus in an intensive four-day working institute. Together participants will focus on the role of course design in the overall act of teaching; write learning outcomes that will provide focus for the course activities and assessment. By the end of the week, participants will have substantial work completed towards a new or revised course design.
Register I More Information

Readings From The Web

The Distracted Classroom

One day near the end of the spring semester last year, I was standing at the front of the room in my British literature survey course, as students completed a writing exercise. One of the best students in the class, "Kate," finished early and sat back to await our discussion.

This talented senior represented something of a puzzle to me. On the one hand, she wrote well, contributed to discussions, sat in the front row every class period, and was always pleasant. On the other hand, she sometimes seemed distracted in class, as if she were secretly on her phone or using social media on a laptop. But no laptop or phone was ever in sight. I chalked up her occasional inattention to senioritis.

Keith Negley for The Chronicle

Read more

More Teamwork, Less Group

Work

Teamwork can be an effective way to encourage classroom camaraderie and to expose students to new ideas, mindsets, and challenges to share and work through with their peers. But how many times in school did you find yourself doing group work without it being a true collaborative process? As in, picking up the slack for others at the last minute, after a frustrating dose of poorly divided labor and a lack of communication? Not all group work is teamwork.

The word team has a connotation of a united front, a selected group who trains and works together towards a common goal and is committed to the success of not only their selves, but the other members. A team is more meaningful and intentional than a group, and therefore offers a different depth of experience and education — teamwork is better than group work any day and that kind of inclusivity is good for the classroom beyond the project at hand.

Read more