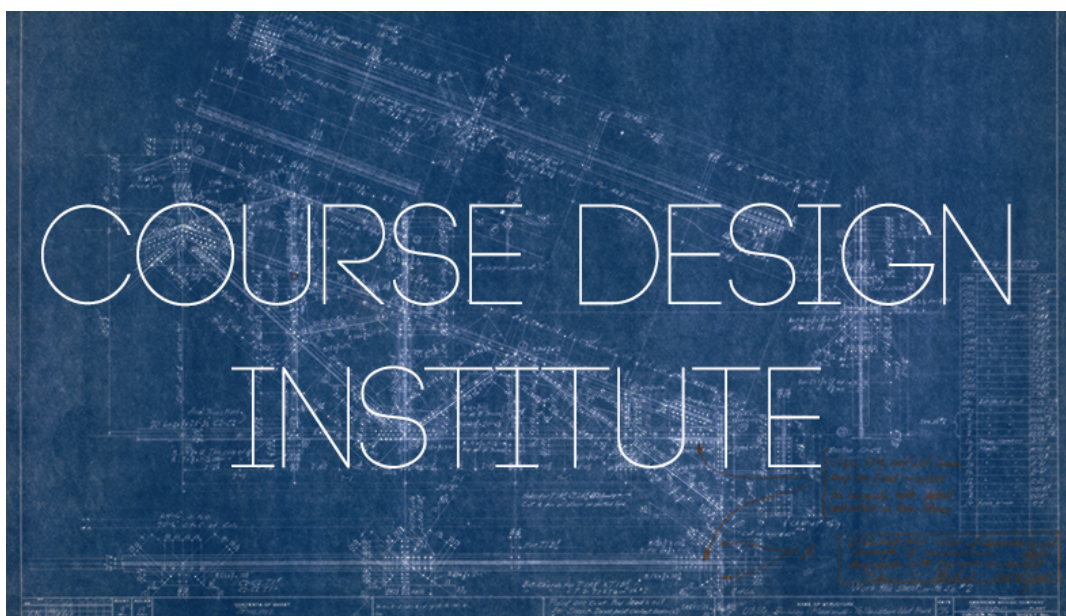


[View this email in your browser](#)



May 2017 Newsletter



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](#)

Online in 9



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

Weekly beginning May 16 (In Person and Online Cohorts)

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.

[Register for Online in 9](#)

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 DIY with a Guide](#)



ProctorU

Test Out New Test Proctoring Software

The CTL and ITS are partnering to pilot a new test-proctoring solution that allows online students to take a proctored exam anywhere. More information about ProctorU can be found on their website: <https://www.proctoru.com>

If you would like to be part of the pilot for ProctorU, please sign up below.

[Apply to Try ProctorU Service](#)



By: Keeta Holmes

Teaching with current events/news? This time-saving tip will keep your

course fresh and deliver trusted content into your course with minimal effort. We often want to include timely news articles in our courses, but it can be a valuable time to find the articles and then add links to our courses. Let the internet do the work for you by having news articles automatically feed into your Canvas or MyGateway courses. The end result is a dynamically changing set of news articles from sources you trust...with no ongoing effort from you! Here's how.

What's an RSS Feed and why would I want one in my course?

RSS stands for Rich Site Summary and sometimes referred to as Really Simple Syndication. RSS is a format for delivering regularly changing web content to those who subscribe to it. Many news-related sites, blogs, and more provide a special link, called an RSS Feed, to whoever wants it. You can use "feed readers" or news aggregator software to deliver those news articles directly to the tool of your choice, whether by email, on an iPad app, or in this case, your course in Canvas or MyGateway!

How do I find an RSS Feed link?



All news sites that provide an RSS feed use the same icon (pictured above) to signal where to find the unique link to the RSS feed. It usually ends in .rss or .xml. Here's an example of an RSS feed link from the New York Times with articles about science: <http://rss.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/nyt/Science.xml>

Here are a few sites you can access to check out the specialized RSS links to sections within their newspapers. You can get an RSS feed related to certain topics. Don't worry if the page itself looks like gibberish – it's the URL you want to copy (that ends in .xml or .rss).

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/index.html>

Washington Post: https://www.washingtonpost.com/rss-feeds/2014/08/04/ab6f109a-1bf7-11e4-ae54-0cfe1f974f8a_story.html?utm_term=.0646d2367bba

CNN: <http://www.cnn.com/services/rss/>

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: <http://www.stltoday.com/rss/>

Now that I have a link, what do I do next?

Once you find the unique RSS feed URL, copy it. As in the example above, I copied <http://rss.nytimes.com/services/xml/rss/nyt/Science.xml> and now need to make an easy widget to go in my Canvas course site.

Navigate to the RSS Widget creator site at <http://feed.mikle.com> and create a new account. Paste the Feed URL and then click “+” to add the feed. You may also add a title for the feed in the “Feed Title” field.

Widget name ⓘ

Feed URL ⓘ

+

Under the General widget settings, you can customize the colors and size of the widget that will appear in your course site. On the right, you’ll immediately see a demo of your widget in action with a scrolling bar of news articles. Click the green “Save & Get Code” button.

Save & Get code

Ignore the first set of code, and click the blue “Get iFrame version” which is compatible with Canvas. Then click the green “Copy iFrame code.”

Get iFrame version ^

```
<iframe src="https://feed.mikle.com/widget/v2/23647/"></iframe>
```

Copy iFrame code

Done

[What's this?](#)

Last step! Paste your widget in Canvas.

Navigate to any content page/item in your course site where you want the scrolling feed of news articles to appear in your course. Turn the item/page into editing mode so you have the ability to add your widget to the page. Change the editor toolbar to become an HTML editor by clicking the blue link “HTML Editor” then paste in the iFrame code you copied earlier. Click “Save” or “Save & Publish” as desired to see your widget in action.

Here's a screenshot of what that looks like:

Current News

Rich Content Editor

<iframe src="https://feed.mikle.com/widget/v2/23647/"></iframe>

Options Can edit this page role selection

Only teachers

☐ Notify users that this content has changed

Cancel Save & Publish Save

Now you will have news articles delivered to your course site without having to do anything more.

Assignment Ideas:

1. Ask students to read the articles each week to find connections between what they're reading and the module content they're learning. They could share what they're finding in a discussion board post, a journal entry, or an assignment.
2. Design an assignment that has a customized RSS feed for the assignment topic to encourage students to include current news in their research.
3. Divide students into news groups and give each group a different RSS feed about course topics and ask them to share with the class in discussions or presentations.
4. Need more ideas? The New York Times Learning Network offers this article complete with lesson plans and assignment suggestions, [50 Ways to Teach with Current Events](#).

Note: The free RSS Widget builder allows you to maintain up to 5 widgets at a

time on their site for free. If you need more to run simultaneously, they charge \$50/year.



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!

Wednesday, May 3

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](#)

Friday, May 5

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](#)

Wednesday, May 17

Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)

1 PM - 2:30 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](#)

Thursday, May 18

Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)

12 Noon - 1:30 PM

Collaborative Learning in 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](#)



Upcoming CTL Events

May

Saturday, May 13

Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)

8:30 AM - Noon

Part-Time Faculty Orientation

UMSL hosts a campus orientation for new part-time faculty. Orientations are designed to introduce: (1) campus services which support faculty and students; (2) campus supports for teaching and learning including integrating technology into courses; (3) service-learning and civic engagement opportunities; (4) research and funding opportunities.

[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](#) | [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](#) | [More Information](#)

June

Friday, June 9

Lucas Hall 589 (LH589)

1 - 4:30 PM

Part-Time Faculty Orientation

UMSL hosts a campus orientation for new part-time faculty. Orientations are designed to introduce: (1) campus services which support faculty and students; (2) campus supports for teaching and learning including integrating technology

into courses; (3) service-learning and civic engagement opportunities; (4) research and funding opportunities.

[Register](#) | [More Information](#)

Readings From The Web



New Washington State Bill Seeks to Increase OER Use and Development

When it comes to open educational resources (OER) in higher education, the promise is that students could receive great digital content on the devices they already have for cheap or even free.

After adopting an open-education initiative in 2011, the University of Massachusetts Amherst reports that students in classes using OER or free library materials have saved over \$1.6 million dollars.

[Read more](#)



Why Politicians Love to Talk About Training Welders

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos gave it a shout-out after her first official college visit.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida once attracted a swarm of fact-checkers after saying that workers in the field "make more money than philosophers."

The speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, has suggested that people learning it can help fill a skills gap in the economy.

Welding: It's a magnet for politicians who like to talk about the need to train students for jobs in high-demand fields.

[Read more](#)
