

WHAT'S NEW IN BLACKBOARD 9, ALSO CALLED BLACKBOARD LEARN?

1. NEW INTERFACE. (See attached documentation for navigation and introduction.)
 - a. Intelligent navigation menus to hide empty content areas
 - b. Context relevant menus
2. BLOGS
 - a. Individual
 - b. Group
 - c. Course
3. INDIVIDUAL STUDENT JOURNALS
4. GROUP ENHANCEMENTS
 - a. Students may be permitted to sign up for a group, or
 - b. Create their own groups
5. NOTIFICATIONS
 - a. Announcements changes
 - b. Announcement emails do not contain the announcement information, but notification of the posting of a new announcement
6. ASSIGNMENTS
 - a. Able to give assignments to groups of students
 - b. Permit multiple attempts
7. Wikis
8. Mash-ups with Flickr, YouTube, or Slideshare
9. Files area for reuseable content items.

THE NEW BLACKBOARD INTERFACE FOR INSTRUCTORS

Login: At <https://courses.meredith.edu/> select “user login” to go to the login page for Blackboard.

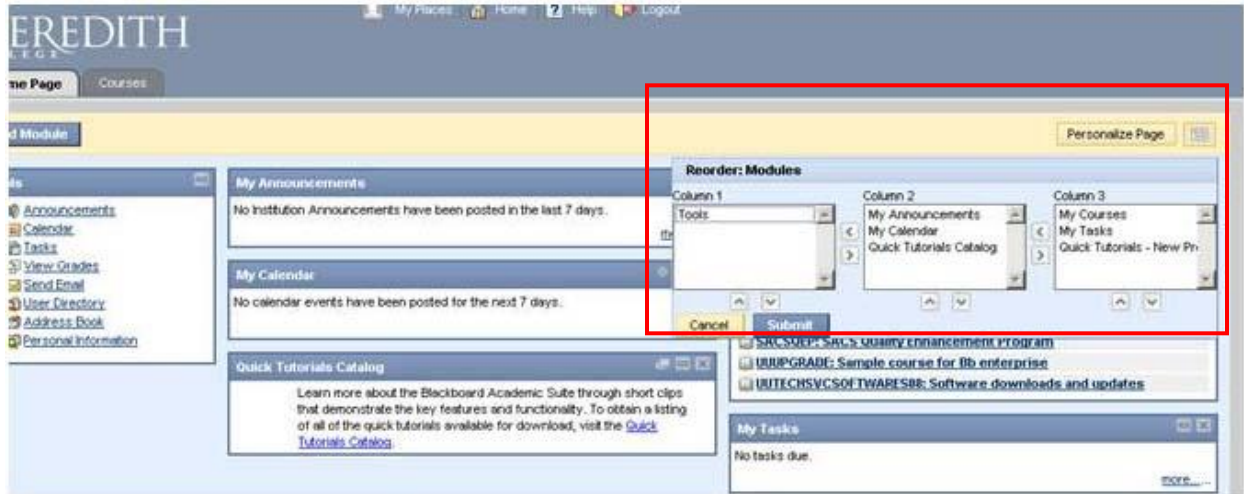
Home page when you log in:



On the left side of the Home page is the “Personal Information” option which allows a user to change his/her password. Another option to change your password is on the login page under the “Forgot password” link. Once the “forgot password” form is filled out, Blackboard sends an email to the user’s email account; the email has a link to lead to resetting the Blackboard password.

Personalize Page

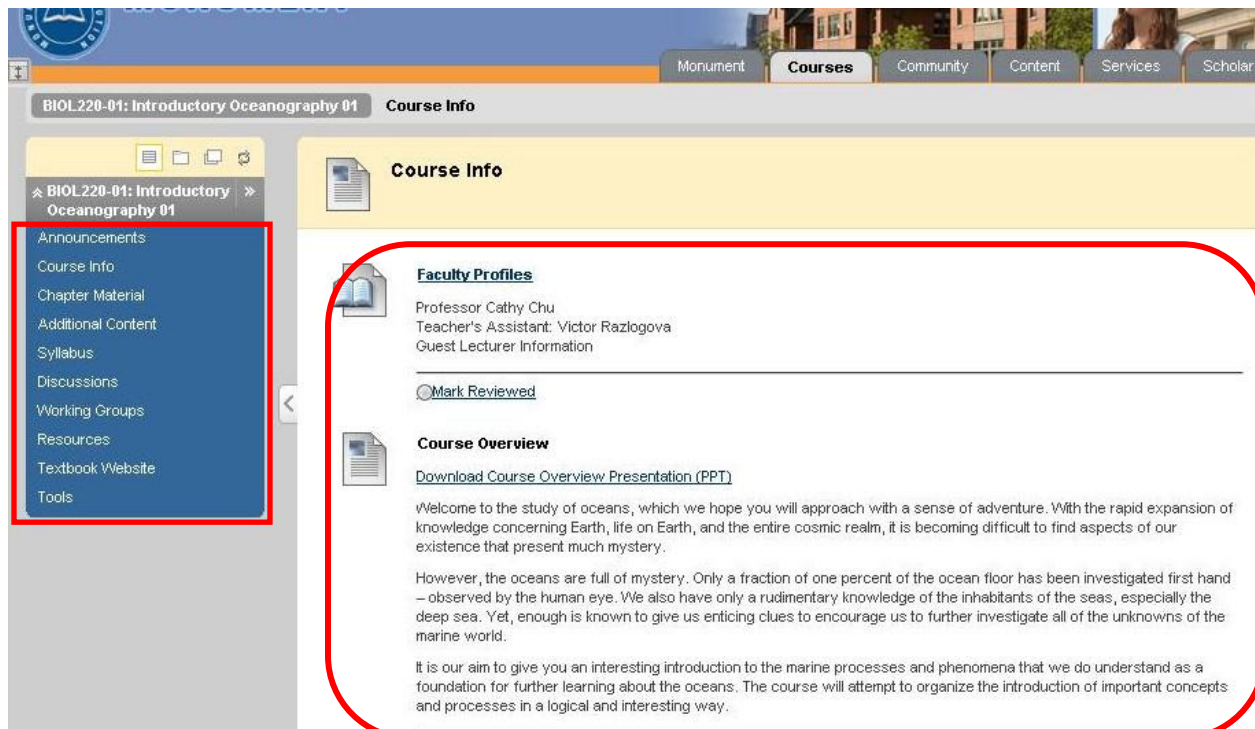
On the upper right side of the Home Page is the “Personalize page” option that allows the user to modify the colors and the layout of the page. The Personalize page button allows you to choose a color scheme for your view. A second button, to the right of the Personalize page button, allows you to modify the layout of the modules. The modules can be shifted about the screen and reordered. A second way to modify the layout of the Home page is to drag-and-drop modules on the screen.



A user selects a course through the “My courses” module to go to the class of choice. Blackboard is updated each week night to reflect the faculty assignments made through the Registrar’s system during the previous work day.

Course HomePage

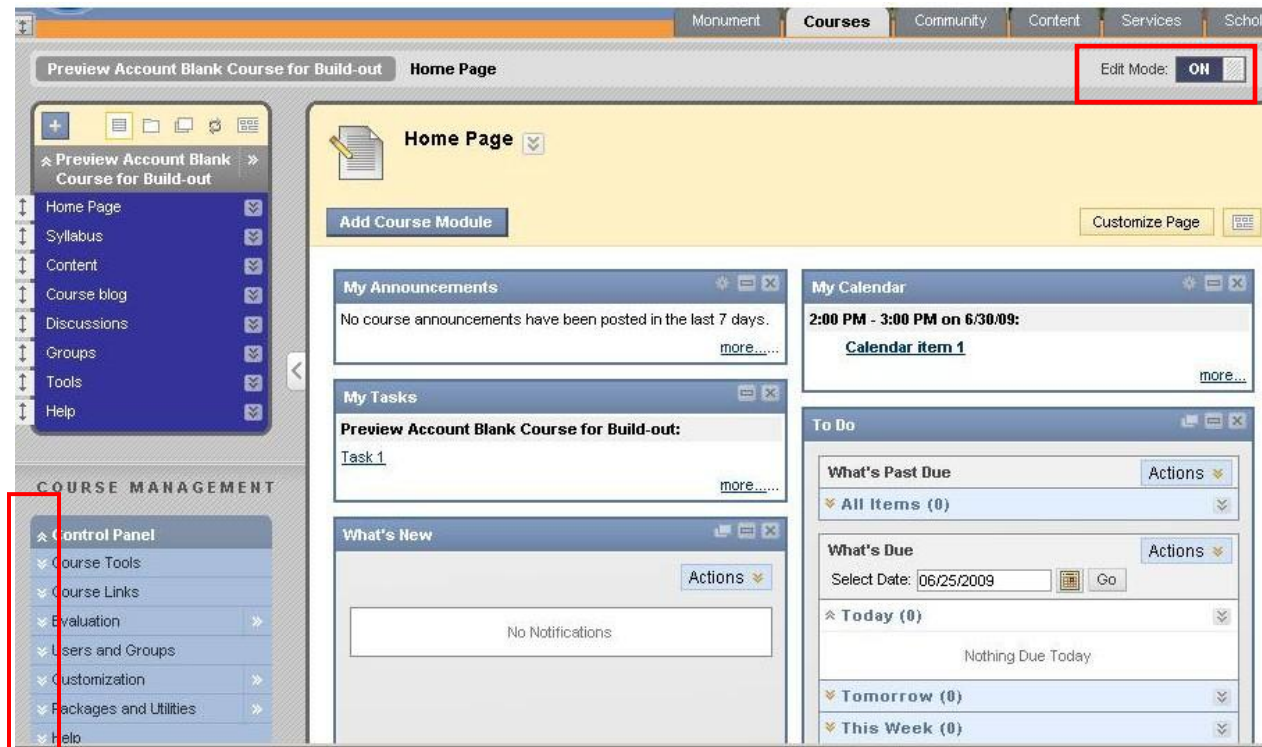
Once a student selects a course, she will go to the course’s default page as designated by the instructor. Frequently, the start page will be the announcements area, but each instructor is able to choose where the students should go when first accessing the course. For example, this oceanography course starts on the course info page:



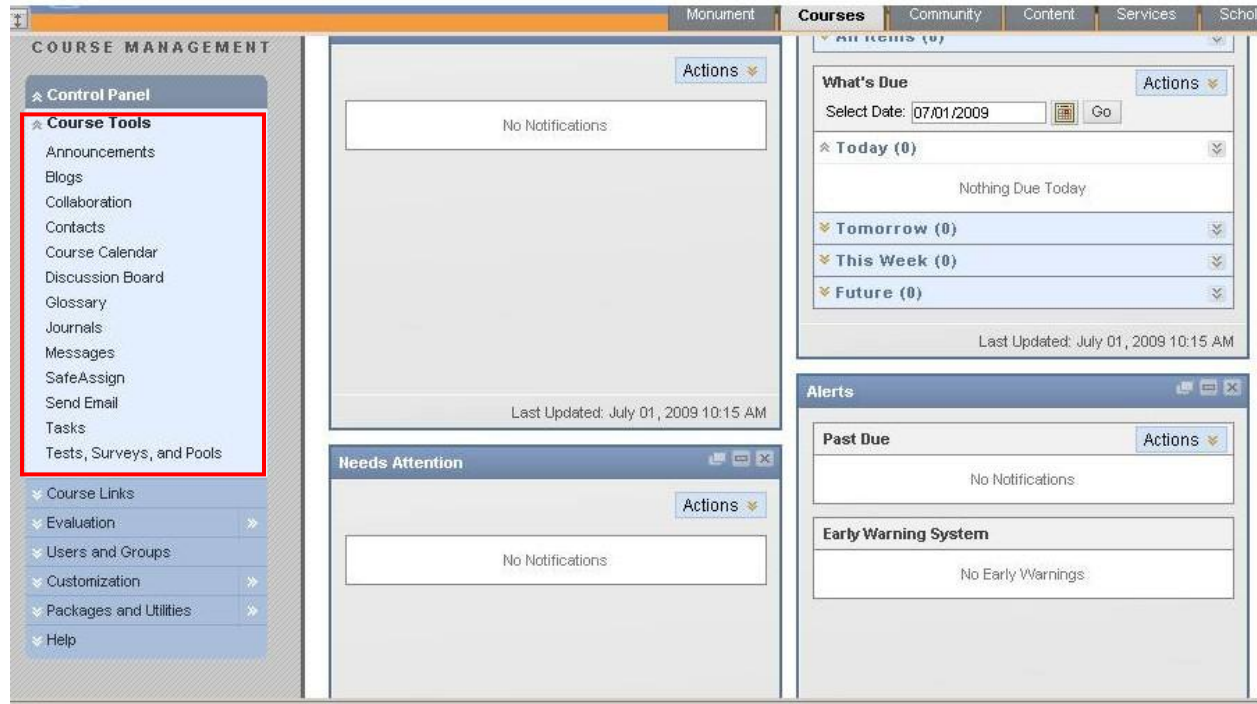
On the left side of the course page is the navigation menu for students. Each item leads to a tool or content area for the course. On the right side of the screen is the content area where files and course materials are located.

Separate for faculty is the **Control Panel** navigation menu that is below the course navigation menu. Only those with assigned authority over the course have the course Control Panel and an “edit mode” button to prepare the course for modifications.

Each instructor must put their course in the “Edit” mode in order to make modifications to their course. Before the option to add a content area or to add content to a course becomes available, the instructor must make sure that the Edit button is turned on. The “Edit” button is located in the upper right side of the content area for instructors.



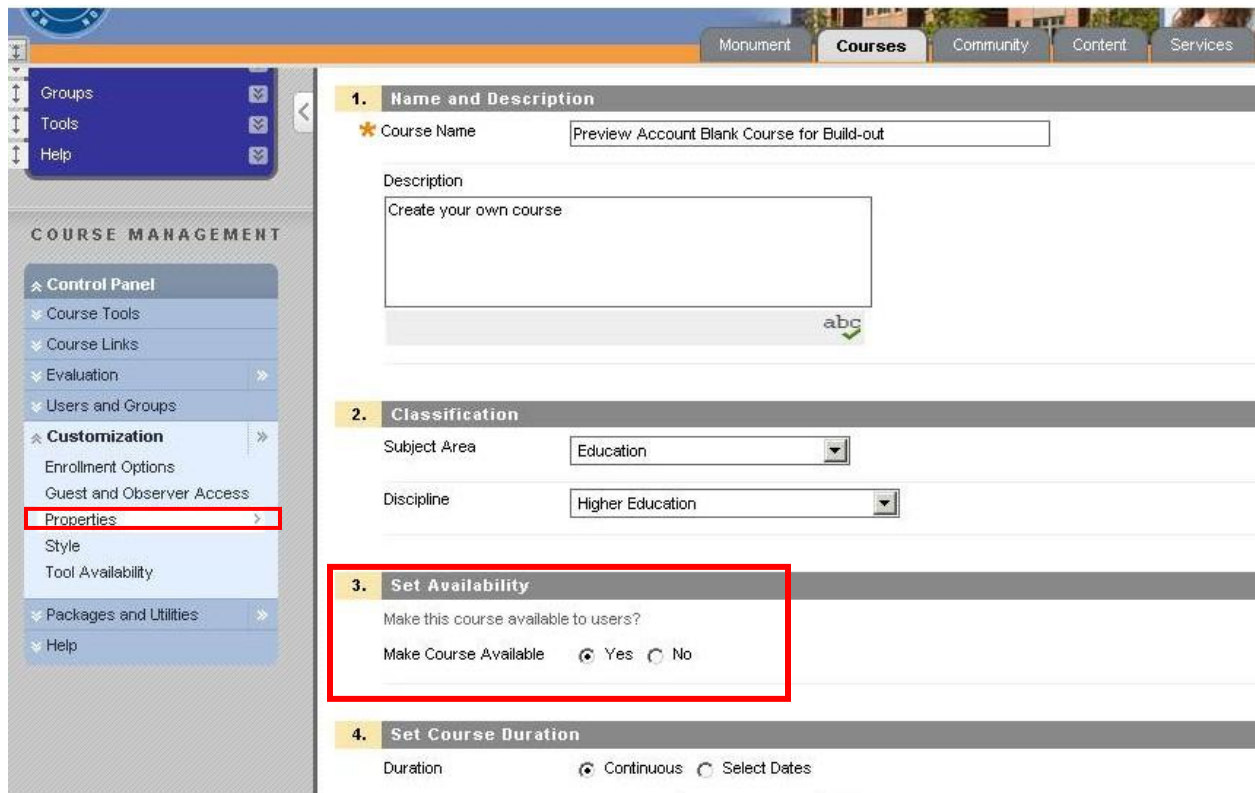
By selecting the double arrows to the left of each menu item, the list will expand to display more options available under each heading. For instance, under “Course tools”, the list will expand to include announcements, send email options, discussion board creation, and other items. See below for an example:



Notice that there is a “Contacts” area under course tools. This is used to add instructor information about the course. Previously, Blackboard had an area called “Staff information”, but it has been replaced by Contacts.

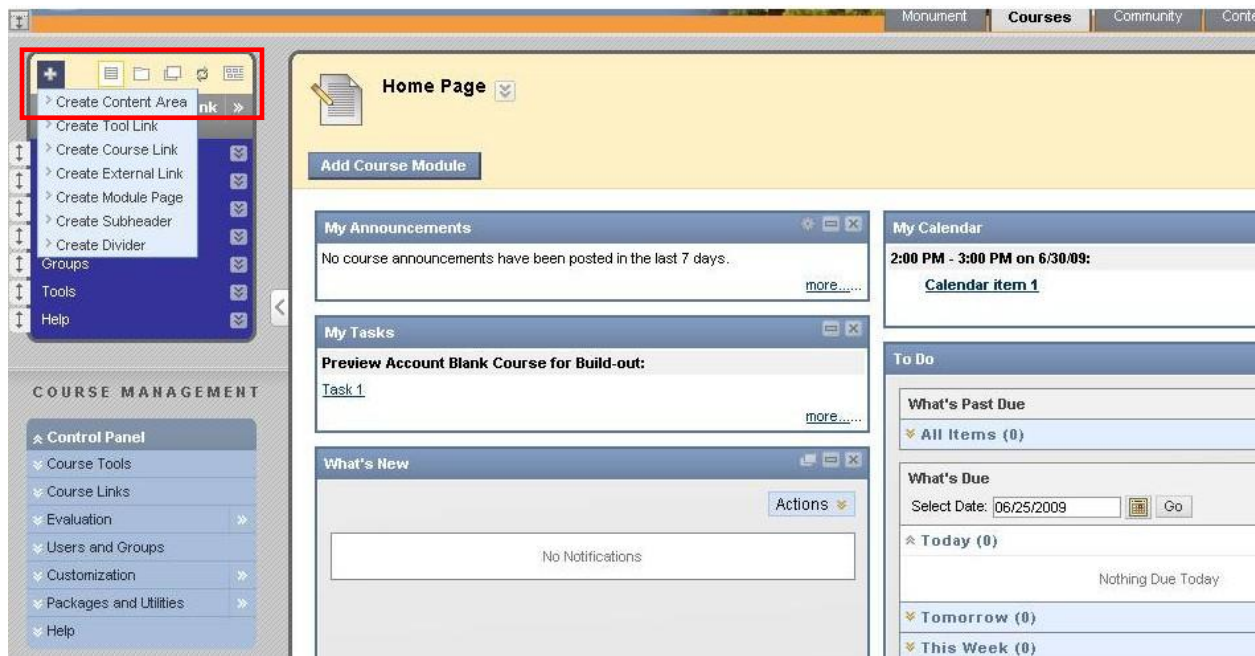
Course Properties

Under the Control Panel, there is an option for customization of the course. ***EACH INSTRUCTOR WILL NEED TO GO TO THE CUSTOMIZATION AREA AND SELECT “PROPERTIES” TO ACTIVATE THE COURSE FOR STUDENT ACCESS.*** Each course is unavailable initially, and therefore remains invisible to the students until the instructor wishes to make it available. The students will not see the course until the instructor makes it available for them.

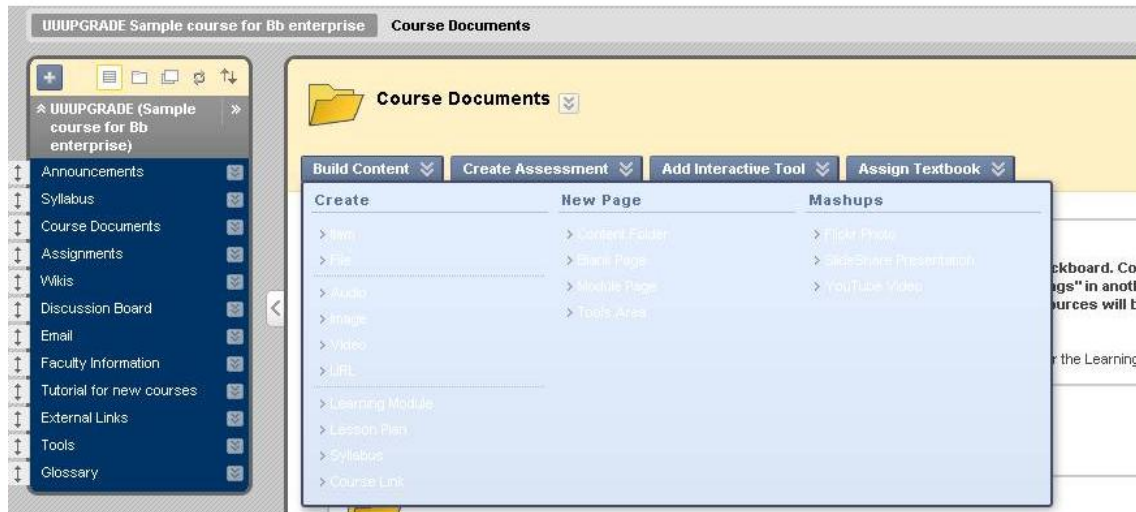


Adding a Content area to the navigation menu

Each course will be created with several areas to add course materials or other content. If an instructor wishes to add an additional area, there is a “create content area” icon for the course menu. By selecting the Plus sign above the course navigation menu, there are a list of items to add to the course menu, one of which is the “create content area.”



Within a chosen content area, the instructor is able to add course materials or may add folders or other items to the content area through the “Build Content” button.



Also within the content area, an instructor may add a collaborative tool, such as a discussion board, wiki, or blog. A wiki or a blog would be visible to all of the students. An instructor may also add a journal feature that would just be visible to the instructor and the student.



The “Document Unpackage” tool allows an instructor to add a zipped folder of files to Blackboard at once, utilizing the unzip feature per file upload.

Discussion Board

Access to the “Discussion Board” in a course may be made through the navigation menu item stating “Discussion Board” or through the “Tools” area where you will choose Discussion Board. The instructor of the course has to create a discussion board and then a “Forum” to ask a question, and provide students with an area to respond.

Discussion Board

Forums are made up of individual discussion threads that can be organized around a particular subject. Create Forums to organize discussions. [More Help](#)

Forum	Description	Total Posts	Unread Posts	Total Participants
[Optional] Extra Credit Discussions	This Extra Credit Discussion is an opportunity to add an additional 10 points to your cumulative score for the course. Participation is optional and will not be counted against your grade.	55	55	38
[Ungraded] Student Lounge	This is a discussion forum for YOU! You can use this area to post a movie review, discuss sports rivalries, recommend a great new restaurant, etc. Any topics are welcome. The only guideline is that you are required to be respectful of your fellow students' opinions. You may certainly disagree on a point, but appropriate language is mandatory. Any attacks on a class member's character will be dealt with quickly and the offending person will be blocked from forum participation.	14	14	9
Chapter 1 - Group 1 DE Space	Discussion Forum for Group 1 to discuss the Chapter 1 group project. This forum is not graded.	0	0	0

Students will click on the forum name to allow them to enter a forum where the discussion will take place. In the forum, the screen changes to display the “threads” of responses from other students. A student may respond to another student, or may start a new thread to offer a different viewpoint.

Forum: [Optional] Extra Credit Discussions

Organize forum threads on this page and apply settings to several or all threads. Threads are listed in a tabular format. The Threads can be sorted by clicking the carat at the top of each column. [More Help](#)

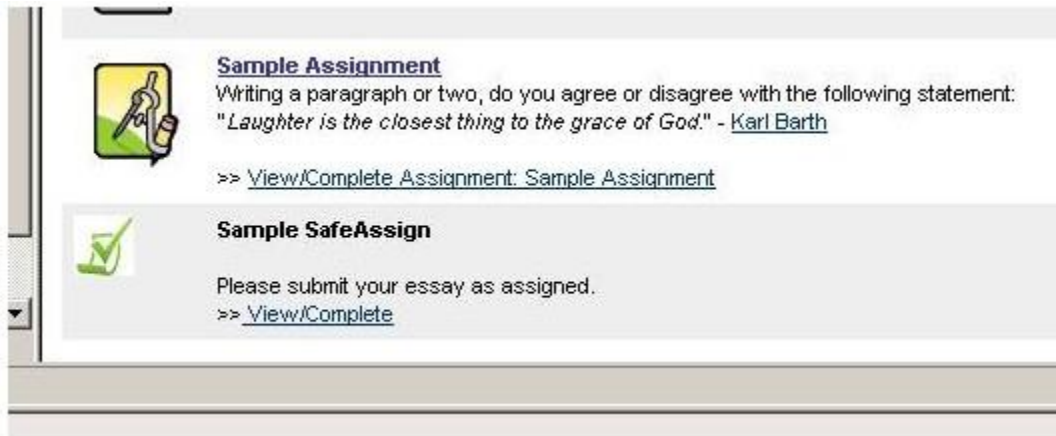
[Create Thread](#) [Search](#) [Discover Content](#) [Display](#)

Date	Thread	Author	Status	Unread Posts	Total Posts
10/1/05 9:39 PM	Hammerhead Shark Conservation	Karen Kim	Published	18	18
1/31/09 11:17 AM	Una nueva emocion	Adriano Sostenis	Published	16	16
3/9/09 11:46 AM	Test	VÁtor Rodrigues	Published	3	3
4/2/09 6:23 PM	I like to blog	John Lane	Published	1	1
4/6/09 10:46 AM	web 2.0 features	Abdul Rehman	Published	2	2
4/20/09 12:15	Hola a todos	Rolando	Published	1	1

Students adding files to the Discussion Board should use the “browse” button to add an attachment. Instructors should add files to the Discussion board using the “Attach file” button on the Visual Text Box Editor menu (bottom row, first icon button).

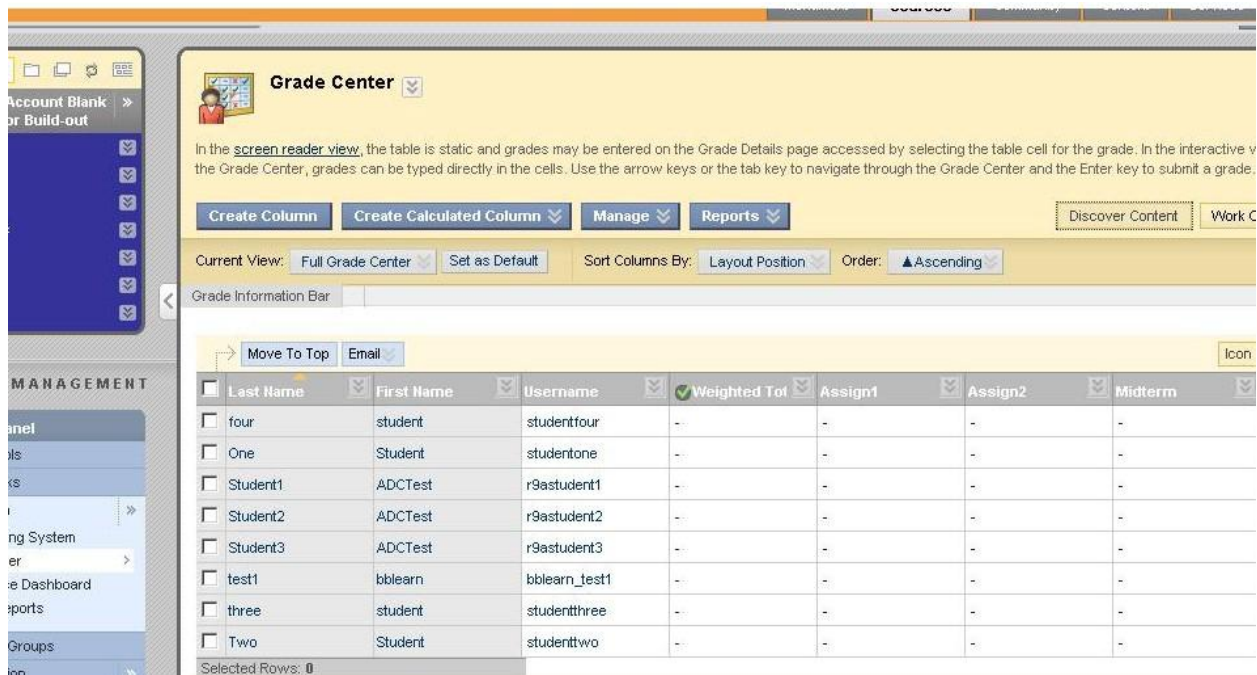
Assignment

The tool "Assignment" permits the instructor to make an assignment, and provides a link for the student to submit a document back to the teacher. The student clicks on the link to "view/Complete" to go to a screen to permit a file attachment.



The screenshot shows two assignment cards. The first card, titled "Sample Assignment", features a pencil icon and contains the text: "Writing a paragraph or two, do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God.' - Karl Barth". Below this text is a link: ">> [View/Complete Assignment: Sample Assignment](#)". The second card, titled "Sample SafeAssign", features a green checkmark icon and contains the text: "Please submit your essay as assigned." followed by a link: ">> [View/Complete](#)".

The instructor will be able to view and download the files from the Grade Center. Each graded item has a column, and the student names are automatically loaded into the gradecenter by the automatic student enrollment. If a student should drop a course, the student's records remain in the gradecenter, though they are invisible to the instructor. If an instructor needs to access the grades to download the entire gradebook, notify the system administrator to temporarily enable the student's record for the download.



The screenshot displays the "Grade Center" interface. At the top, there are buttons for "Create Column", "Create Calculated Column", "Manage", and "Reports". Below these are options for "Current View" (Full Grade Center) and "Sort Columns By" (Layout Position). The main area contains a table with the following columns: Last Name, First Name, Username, Weighted Tot, Assign1, Assign2, and Midterm. The table lists several students with their respective grades in each category.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Last Name	First Name	Username	Weighted Tot	Assign1	Assign2	Midterm
<input type="checkbox"/>	four	student	studentfour	-	-	-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	One	Student	studentone	-	-	-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student1	ADCTest	r9astudent1	-	-	-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student2	ADCTest	r9astudent2	-	-	-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student3	ADCTest	r9astudent3	-	-	-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	test1	bblearn	bblearn_test1	-	-	-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	three	student	studentthree	-	-	-	-
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two	Student	studenttwo	-	-	-	-

Selected Rows: 0