Distance Education Unit Digest
EdTech Quick Tips and Teaching with Technology
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Distance Education Unit
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www.sites.usask.ca/edtech
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In this Issue: Last Minute Course Preparations

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Still need some support with your remote course development?

Not to worry, there are still plenty of support staff and resources around to help you get your course up and running for September 3rd. Here's a few key places to get the help you need.

Learning Technology Resources

List of supported USask learning technologies available

Searchable IT Support Knowledge Base

Intro to Blackboard LMS

Canvas LMS support pages

Learning Technology Training/Support

Contact **itsupport@usask.ca** for answers to your technical questions

ICT supported Canvas learning opportunities

Upcoming ICT supported training opportunities

Remote Teaching Resources

Remote Teaching support pages including good practice guidelines

Comprehensive Remote Course Development Guide from DEU

Remote Teaching Training/Support

Visit **https://teaching.usask.ca/remote-teaching/support.php** to find all the support units available to you.

Upcoming GMCTL Remote Teaching workshops

Templates to help you hit the ground running

Canvas Course Template - This Canvas course template was designed to help reduce stress load, encourage learning, and help you structure content into a great online learning experience for your students.

Remote Teaching Syllabus Template - This template includes updated language relevant to the remote teaching context for your use and includes supports to reflect online services available for your students and much more.

Course Design and Asynchronous Module Templates - Create a course framework (with the *Course Design Template*) that will help students navigate their new learning environment with structure and consistency and then drill down to the Module level (with the *Module template*) to structure the weekly learning experience and classroom routines for your students. These two templates, along with completed samples, will help you organize your course for remote or online delivery.

Finding course resources at USask and beyond

The Library

The USask Library is an obvious starting place for finding course resources. Here's a few links to help you get those resources into your online course.

Library Support on Course Reserves

How to direct link library resources in your Blackboard course

Guide on embedding research guides in your Blackboard course

Adding Research Guides in your Canvas Course

Canvas Commons

Commons is a learning object repository that enables educators to find, import, and share resources. A digital library full of educational content, Commons allows Canvas users to share learning resources with other users as well as import learning resources into a Canvas course.

DEU Blog Post - **7 Things you should know about Canvas Commons**

GMCTL Blog Post - **Canvas Commons Opens New Ways to Share Materials With Colleagues, and Beyond**

ICT Knowledge Base Article around creating groups to share with in the Commons

More FAQ around Canvas Commons (Scroll to the bottom of linked page)

Important Reminders!

Where will students find their courses? - Blackboard vs. Canvas

All Fall 2020 courses were uploaded to **both** Blackboard and Canvas. There was no realistic way to distinguish between courses that would be taught in Canvas or Blackboard, so you will have a copy in each system. When students go to access their courses, they will be directed first to Blackboard.

If you plan to use Blackboard, then you just build your course in Blackboard as you would in any previous academic term. The Canvas version of your course will not appear to students until you manually publish it, so you will not have to worry about students stumbling upon it.

If you plan to use Canvas, then it is a good idea to redirect your Blackboard course to your actual Canvas course using this knowledge base article from ICT - **How do I redirect my course in Blackboard to my course in Canvas**

Copyright considerations for your remote course

Pedagogical and technical issues may make the shift from in-person to online teaching a challenge but copyright concerns should not be a significant barrier! Kate Langrell, the USask Copyright Coordinator, gave a great presentation called **Shifting Your In-Person Course to Online: Copyright Considerations** that is well worth a watch. Check out more great **Copyright Consideration resources available at USask** for keeping your content in line with copyright considerations as you move to remote teaching.

For Canvas Users

- Remember, **until you publish your course**, it won't appear on students' Canvas Dashboards.
- The communication system in Canvas is not directly linked with users' USask email, however, by default, users' notifications are configured to email their USask account when someone communicates with them using the Canvas Inbox. Creating a new course announcement will notify everyone in the course, or you can target specific course groups (such as all students) or individuals by sending them a message using the Canvas Inbox. Please review our Knowledge Base (KB) article on using the Canvas Inbox for information and instructions: **How send a message to course members using Canvas Inbox**. **Important! Until you publish your course**, notifications and other messaging **will not** be sent. If your course material is still in draft, you can publish your course without publishing modules/pages/other content, which can be published at a later date.

DEU support and contact information

The Instructional Design Team at the Distance Education Unit can help you design online activities, assessments and other online appropriate elements to your remote teaching or fully online offerings. Visit **https://sites.usask.ca/edtech/** for more helpful tips and tutorials as well as information on our support services and contact information.

Our **Instructional Design Team** is always happy to chat with you about learning technologies and strategies for using them effectively in your online or blended classroom. Our staff can help you with questions about,
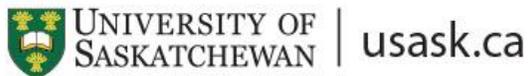
- Full Online Course Development Projects
- Hybrid, multi-access and blended learning strategies
- Open Textbook and OER developments
- ePortfolios
- Engaging Online Assessments and Learning Activities
- Copyright Clearances, Acquisitions and OER Licensing
- Ensuring Accessibility standards are being addressed
- Ed Tech Support before and during delivery
- Course Quality Reviews and Recommendations
- Media resource development
- Resource curation and dissemination
- Non-Credit Learning Design

And much more. Just drop us a line to start a conversation **deu.support@usask.ca**

If you wish to be added to the DEUD mailing list, please send your **NSID** to **deu.support@usask.ca**

Visit **DEU Digest Archives** to download PDF versions of past digest issues.

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