



City College E-Learning Workshop Notes Descriptions for D2L content navigation

Participants

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Discussion Notes:

- We started with an open forum where we collaborate on challenges we are having. There were no special questions for this week.
- We reviewed some ideas to make D2L shells more visually appealing and how to build content that helps guide students. An overview is attached. A banner size 800x200 pixels works well on the desktop for images inserted in to the content description area.
- We discussed balance content as a nice way to make content more appealing. Avoid all text. Adding images and videos add a lot. Consider D2L templates. Make announcements look professional. Organize content into submodules if more than about 6 items.
- Photo editing software was discussed. GIMP is a free version that Tyr and Andy have used with success. Adobe is available to instructors and can be loaded on home computers by contact IT. Both tools have a steep learning curve.
- Jessie introduced Prezi, which is a nice alternative to PowerPoint that offers some slick navigation features. There are free versions that saves your presentations for a long period (20+ years).
- Jessie also introduced Poll Everywhere, which is a third-party add-in for PowerPoint that allows embedding class polls in a presentation. There is a free tier for instructors that accommodate up to 40 users.
- Lance provided a link to several TED Talks on how to improve presentations: <https://enterpriseproject.com/article/2018/9/7-ted-talks-how-improve-your-presentations>
- Dr. Kendrick shared a video that takes an entertaining look at some PowerPoint practices to avoid: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjcO2ExtHso>

Descriptions for D2L content navigation

D2L content can be dry like the example in Figure 1 from one of my courses. There is adequate information for students familiar with how I use D2L, but I admit it isn't very visually appealing. There is also no guidance to students on how to use the content files.

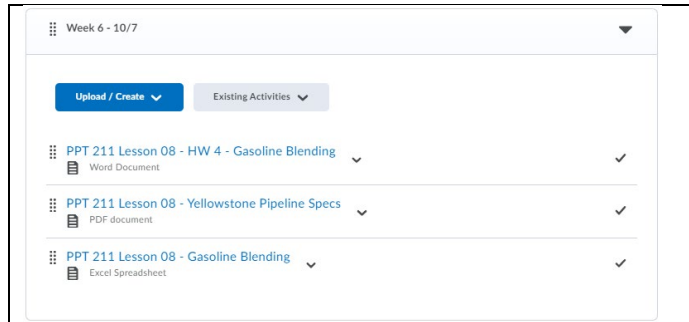


Figure 1 – Basic D2L example without visuals or guidance.

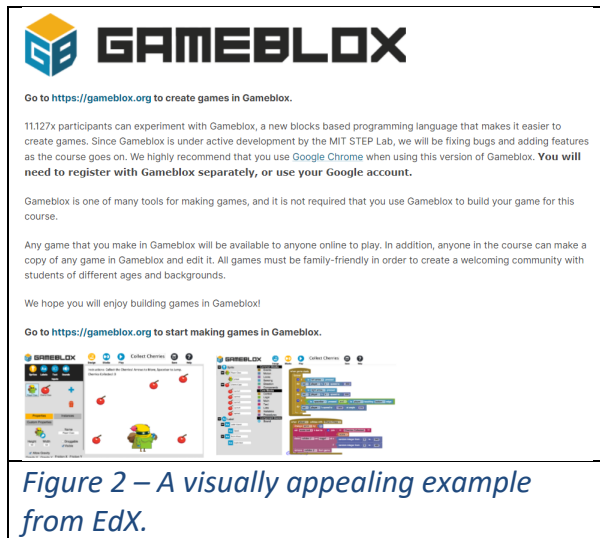


Figure 2 – A visually appealing example from EdX.

Figure 2 shows an example from EdX that has a greater visual appeal and guides learners through the content in the module.

EdX and similar MOOCs enjoy extraordinary resources for their production, but D2L provides some tools that can help produce a similar look and feel.

Figure 3 shows a D2L example from a 1st semester course. Text in the description area of the module is used to guide participants through content for the week. Hyperlinks lead to content, homework, quizzes, or other content. The materials can also be found in the usual D2L areas. An image at the top adds some brightness to the module. 800x200 px seems to be a good image size.

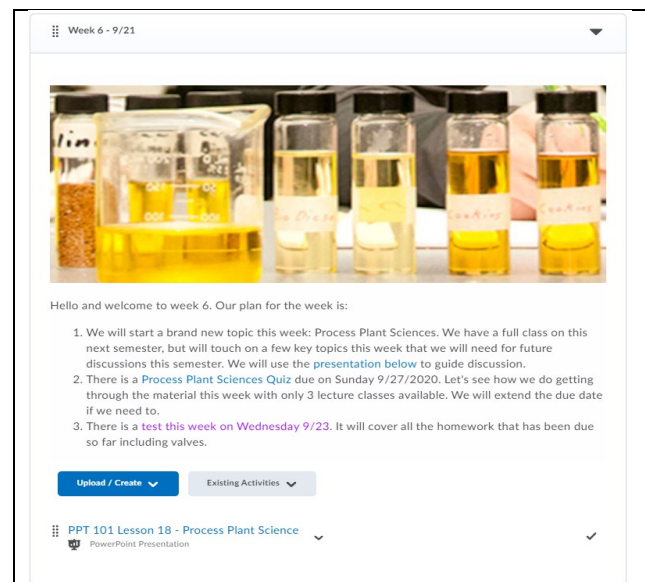


Figure 3 – D2L example with visuals and content navigation guidance.