

TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY

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Blackboard Updates

New Blackboard Features in June

Blackboard will be upgraded to the most recent release, version 9.1, SP14 on June 3, 2014. New features include:

- Grade Center improvements
- Group and Date management
- Improved Testing options
- Course Message notifications
- Student video upload
- SMS notification option
- User profiles

For more details, visit:

<http://bbhelp.cit.cornell.edu/?p=2078>



MOOCs

Cornell's Next MOOCs Named

Cornell has selected next year's massive open online courses (MOOCs). The four courses are:

- The Ethics of Eating
- Civic Ecology: Finding Meaning in City Life
- Introduction to Global Hospitality Management
- Computer Systems From Smartphones to Supercomputers

Academic Technologies, eCornell, the Center for Teaching Excellence and Cornell University Library are working collaboratively in development and support of the MOOCs.

Keep up with the latest Cornell MOOC news:

<http://cornellx.cornell.edu>



Ongoing Pilots

Excited about New Educational Technology? Let's Explore What Works.



Enjoy working with new educational technology and seeing its potential to improve teaching and learning? Beginning in the Fall of 2014, we will start a collaborative program with faculty excited about new educational technology.

The goal of the program is to gain a deeper understanding of how new instructional technologies actually work in the classroom. Faculty who become Academic Technologies Early Adoption Mentors will work closely with our team to understand how these technologies can be used in teaching and learning.

More details soon on the Academic Technologies blog:

<http://acadtech.cit.cornell.edu/blog/>



Computer Labs

Mac Lab Available for Classes

The Mac lab operated by Academic Technologies in partnership with Mann Library may now be booked for instruction. The second-floor lab features twenty iMacs, all with software and hardware for multimedia projects.



Request a lab:

<http://labs.cit.cornell.edu>





Classroom Technologies

Making Lecture Capture Easier!

As more faculty begin to use lecture capture to enhance student learning, Academic Technologies is working closely with Cornell's various schools and colleges to make it easier and more mobile.

Over the past semester AT has been making mobile lecture capture kits available to faculty through the individual schools and colleges. The kits come in a few different "flavors" depending on the needs of the individual faculty member.

Some kits simply include a high definition USB webcam and some extension cables. For faculty who want to capture in-class lectures, in addition to a USB webcam, the swivl (www.swivl.com), which makes it possible for a camera to automatically follow a lecturer as she or he moves around the classroom, is also provided. If enhanced audio is needed, a high quality external USB microphone can be included in the kit.



Interested in using one of these kits? We can tell you who to contact in your individual school to obtain it.

Write us to find out more:

✉ atc_support@cornell.edu



Classroom Technologies

In-Class Polling Goes Mobile

The i>clicker classroom polling service has been offering a mobile/web option for students to respond to in-class questions since the start of the Spring 2014 semester, with i>clicker GO. Some instructors have chosen to allow students to use their own computer, tablet, or smartphone to respond to i>clicker questions.

In these classes, students have the choice of using i>clicker remotes, an app on their phones or iPads, or any web browser.



Many instructors are enjoying the ease of introducing these new options, allowing them to

provide their students with more flexibility and meet their teaching objectives with a minimum of disruption.

See full details about i>clicker GO at Cornell:

🖱 <http://pollinghelp.cit.cornell.edu/iclicker-go/>

Get set for the RedRover Secure Wi-Fi retirement this summer. Start using eduroam now: <http://www.it.cornell.edu/services/wifi/>

Reminder: SUNY Conference on Instruction and Technology: CIT 2014

Objects in the Mirror are Closer than they Appear: Reflection, Innovation, and Learning

May 27-30, 2014, Cornell University

Keynote Speaker Daphne Koller will present virtually "The Online Revolution: Learning without Limits," followed by a Q&A.

The conference will feature the following tracks:

- Learning Design: Creating a Quality Learning Environment
- Engaging Students in a Virtual world
- Opening SUNY
- Collaborating Across the System and Beyond
- Strategies on Assessment of Learning

Last day to register is May 18! Find out more at:

🖱 <http://www.cit.suny.edu>



Academic Technology Center

Welcoming Rosie, the Telepresence Robot and the GoPro Hero3+ Black

This spring, Academic Technologies welcomed Rosie, the telepresence robot from Double Robotics, and the mighty GoPro Hero3+ Black video camera



to our team. The Double is a remotely controlled, mobile teleconferencing system that allows conversations to happen anywhere and anytime.

The GoPro provides wide angle, hands-free and adventurous video capture. Stop by to meet Rosie, see the GoPro, and learn about other equipment available for loan to faculty and academic staff.

The Academic Technology Center is open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday, CCC Building Room 124 (on the Ag Quad). To guarantee availability of items for check-out, reservations are strongly encouraged and may be made in person, by calling 255-9760, or by emailing atc_support@cornell.edu.





Classroom Technologies

WebEx Used in Support of Development Sociology Teaching and Engagement

Angela Gonzales, associate professor of development sociology, used WebEx in her department's new senior capstone course to help students apply the knowledge, theories, and methods they've learned, while providing real-world service in support of a community.

Her students worked with three organizations on the Hopi Reservation in northeastern Arizona on projects to address important community needs. WebEx was one of the tools the students and Hopi community partners used to keep in contact, along with email and a face-to-face visit on the Cornell Ithaca campus.



"The ability for students to successfully engage and partner with organizations on the Hopi Reservation wouldn't have been possible without WebEx," says Professor Gonzales. The organizations involved were the Hopi Special Diabetes Program, the Hopi Education Endowment Fund, and the Natwani Coalition, which is dedicated to improving the Hopi food system and community health.

"It not only helped to create a sense of community with the three organizations we worked with," she continues, "but also allowed community partners to communicate directly with students via video conferencing. This deepened the collaborative relationship between students and their community partners, and also helped the partner organization to share the work with others in the community through recorded WebEx meetings."

WebEx also helps support other teaching needs, such as enabling Professor Gonzales to continue to meet with students and deliver lectures while traveling away from campus. "WebEx allowed me to maintain the class schedule and provided students with the flexibility to watch the lecture outside of class, something that many expressed appreciation to be able to do, given their busy

schedules," she says.

"The flexibility that WebEx provides is critically important for those of us whose research and professional activities require frequent travel from campus," says professor Gonzales.

If you have questions about how you can integrate WebEx into your courses, we can help!

Learn what options web conferencing can provide:

✉ atc_support@cornell.edu



Accessibility

The Importance of Accessibility

Instructor choices can make assistive technologies function better

For some students, the rigors of academic life would be impossible without help from assistive software and devices. Mark Colasurdo '15, a biological engineering student with vision loss, finds a screen reader called JAWS essential to his success at Cornell. It reads everything on screen—great for getting through long reading assignments—and lets him interact via keyboard commands instead of mouse clicks.

An "extensive reading assignment," says Mark, "would take me days, whereas with JAWS, I can read it in a normal timeframe, just like anyone else."

Bottom line? Instructors need to supply content that allows assistive technologies to function. Well-organized web and course pages help. JAWS can read and search Word files, while PDFs first have to be converted.

View a 3-minute video of Mark talking about his experience with JAWS at:
http://youtu.be/pdTj5sxEE_4

Consult on how to make course content more accessible:

✉ atc_support@cornell.edu



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Academic Technologies offers many services & resources to support your teaching and learning needs.

Services

- Webconferencing
- Collaboration tools: discussion boards, blogs, and wikis
- Online tutorial development
- Self-service video recording, lecture capture, video production of course materials, and video storage
- Web-based surveys (Qualtrics)
- Assessment tools, including quizzes, e-portfolios, and online assignments
- i>clicker classroom polling
- Computer labs for instruction. See the Computing Labs map to find the resources you need: mapping.cit.cornell.edu/publiclabs/map
- Course web sites

Getting Help


Self Help:

Visit our help sites for how-tos and answers to frequently asked questions!

 pollinghelp.cit.cornell.edu

 bbhelp.cit.cornell.edu

 eportfoliohelp.cit.cornell.edu

 videohelp.cit.cornell.edu

collabhelp.cit.cornell.edu

Set up a consultation with an Academic Technologist:

We provide academic technology consultations to assist in selecting the best technologies to support instructional goals, engage students, enhance lectures, collaboration and managing large courses.

Contact the Academic Technology Center:

Web atc.cit.cornell.edu

Email atc_support@cornell.edu