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Using Facebook as a Course Management Tool

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Using Facebook as a Course Management Tool

SoTL Commons 2010
This Session

- What is Facebook?
- How to use as CM tool
  - CSCI 120 – Intro to Web Design
    - Blackboard Spring 2009
    - Facebook Summer 2009
  - All of my courses are “paperless classrooms”
- Pros/Cons from my experience
- Privacy
- Options for use
Facebook’s Mission

“Facebook’s mission is to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected.

Millions of people use Facebook everyday to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet.”

www.facebook.com
Main Interface

facebook

News Feed

Mel Sheehan Dillon: May you have the hindsight to know where you’ve been the foresight to know where you’re going and the insight to know when you’re going too far.

5 hours ago · Comment · Like

Barbara Smaller O'Malley: I like it. Keep it coming...
3 hours ago

Write a comment...
Account

- You must sign up to use Facebook
- Applications
  - Status
  - Wall
  - Photos
  - Videos
  - Links
  - Notes
  - Groups
  - Games, etc
Privacy Settings

**Profile Information**
Control who can see your profile and who can post to your Wall

**Contact Information**
Control who can contact you on Facebook and see your contact information and email

**Applications and Websites**
Control what information is available to Facebook-enhanced applications and websites

**Search**
Control who can see your search result on Facebook and in search engines

**Block List**
Control who can interact with you on Facebook
Privacy Settings » Profile Information

About me
About Me refers to the About Me description in your profile

Personal Info
Interests, Activities, Favorites

Birthday
Birth date and Year

Religious and Political Views

Family and Relationship
Family Members, Relationship Status, Interested In, and Looking For

Education and Work
Schools, Colleges and Workplaces

Photos and Videos of Me
Photos and Videos you've been tagged in

Back to Privacy
Groups

- Anyone can create a group
- I used
  - Wall
  - Discussion Board
  - Links
  - Messages
Group Options

- Non-admins can write on the wall
- Show group events.
- Enable discussion board.
- Enable photos.
- Enable videos.
- Enable links.
  - Allow all members to post links.
  - Only allow admins to post links.

Access:
- This group is open.
  Anyone can join and invite others to join. Group info and content can be viewed by anyone and may be indexed by search engines.
- This group is closed.
  Admins must approve requests for new members to join. Anyone can see the group description, but only members can see the Wall, discussion board, and photos.
- This group is secret.
  The group will not appear in search results or in the profiles of its members. Membership is by invitation only, and only members can see the group information and content.
Jeannie French Well, we're all wrapped up! Nice work. I've posted final project comments on your grade webpage and I've submitted the official grades in Webadvisor. Thank you so much for a great semester. Enjoy!
July 12, 2009 at 10:07pm · Report

Jeannie French Grading, grading, grading. Well, I've not yet started to...
Category:
Student Groups - Academic Groups

Description:
Class location for CCU's CSCI 120-D1 during Summer 1 of 2009

Privacy Type:
Closed: Limited public content. Members can see all content.

Admins

- Jeannie French (creator)
Group Members do NOT have to be friends
## Discussion Board

Displaying all 13 topics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Latest post by</th>
<th>Created Date</th>
<th>Post Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reviews of Final Projects</td>
<td>Jeannie French</td>
<td>July 9, 2009 8:08pm</td>
<td>July 10, 2009 7:19pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COURSE FEEDBACK</td>
<td>Jeannie French</td>
<td>July 5, 2009 7:08pm</td>
<td>July 10, 2009 6:44pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL PROJECTS</td>
<td>Jeannie French</td>
<td>July 9, 2009 7:56pm</td>
<td>July 10, 2009 5:50am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Comments

- The class being taught mainly through FB can be very beneficial at times. (I'm taking another online class through Blackboard & it's been down several times this semester). But at the same time I think that the class on FB can be distracting bc this class gave me an excuse to be on FB and wonder around on it instead of doing what I was supposed to, which doesn't help my procrastination. Like any other thing, Class on FB has its pros and cons. My suggestion would be to continue on FB - - I'm bias against Blackboard - - and virtually everyone that will be taking this class will already have a FB.
I am not really happy with Blackboard. I have used a later version of it at Elon and it worked well, though it did go down occasionally, but unfortunately Coastal’s version lacks the same ease of use.

I think Facebook was a good platform for the class. I too though found myself logging into it and getting distracted. I even got into Farm Town and of course taking those stupid quizzes. How long would I survive in a horror film! The shame of it all. Seriously though, Facebook has been good for helping keep in touch with my tutors.
I was rather nervous about taking a class on-line, but it was the only way I could do so this summer with my orientation responsibilities. Now I am glad I decided to do so. Using Facebook was a nice change of pace for the summer! During the school year, I am always engrossed in Blackboard for the class I teach to communicate with my students! I agree with Charles that Blackboard is cumbersome to use!
Pros

- I was on Facebook Anyway
- For CSCI 120, it provided all of the communication tools I needed
  - Added Grading
  - Had additional site: http://ww2.coastal.edu/jennis/csci120/
Cons

- Does not have all of the “bells and whistles” of Blackboard
How I Use FB Now

- Upper-level “friends”
- Chat and Messages used mostly
- Hide posts I don’t want
- “Unfriend” when no longer valid
- Can block if necessary
- Never had problems! Have been using FB with students for about 5 years now.
Other Options

- Alternate account
- Don’t have to be FRIENDS - Network
- Change privacy settings to your liking