

BlackBoard log

Tom van Duist

October 30, 2015



1 Personal BlackBoard use

10 Personally I avoid BlackBoard whenever I can as I find it cumbersome to work with. To this end I mainly come to BlackBoard to download the available content so I can save it locally and synchronize it with all my devices using Dropbox, in this way it is also easy to view the files with a smartphone.

I will aggregate the way in which I use BlackBoard as a list of actions that I perform. From these I will draw a couple of conclusions and observations.

15 1.1 BlackBoard log

Download files:

1. Go to the relevant course.
2. Click on 'Course Materials'.
3. Look for any new files and download them.
- 20 4. Repeat step 2 and 3 for the sections 'Assignments', 'Course Information' and 'Announcements'.
5. Synchronize files using Dropbox.

Hand in assignment:

1. Go to relevant course.
- 25 2. Click on 'Assignments'.
3. Click on relevant assignment title.
4. Click on continue in the bottom right corner.
5. Find the upload or browse button and upload the file.
6. Click submit (this will automatically show the created submission).
- 30 7. Double check if it is the correct file by downloading the submission by clicking the download button next to the file.

Read announcements:

1. Go to relevant course.
2. Click on 'Announcements'.
- 35 3. Read if there are any new announcements.
4. Go to step 1 for every active course.

View grades:

1. Go to relevant course.
2. Either click on 'Assignments':
40 a) Click on the title of the relevant assignment.
 b) Look if the grade has been updated on the right.
3. Or click on 'Tools':
 a) Click on 'My Gradees'.
 b) View if the grade has been updated for the relevant section.

45 **1.2 Observations**

- Most actions, such as viewing a grade or reading an announcements are initiated once I learn of new developments through other communication channels.
- Handing in an assignment was very confusing the first time and we ended up uploading it at a wrong location.

50 **1.3 Conclusions**

- The process of handing in an assignment is confusing.
- Two ways of viewing grades is confusing.
- It is too cumbersome to view files, making it easier to download them to bypass BlackBoard afterwards.
- 55 • Every course has a different way to organize the content so you are always searching for what you need.
- Getting emails or other notifications outside BlackBoard about grades and announcements would be a good feature.
- 60 • General page on BlackBoard with contact information about teachers instead of finding it inside the course would be convenient.