TECHNICAL READINESS

Using Blackboard

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Blackboard is the system utilised by Laureate Online Education to bring you your classroom experience, including this one. It is a leading software application known as a Learning Management System (LMS), utilised by Universities around the world to deliver online academic experiences. However, we are amongst a few that utilise it for a fully online classroom experience.

Blackboard (the classroom experience), is embedded within LENS (the community experience) to give our students a unique collaborative experience fully online and accessible 24 hours 7 days a week. Whilst you log into LENS when you first access my.ohecampus.com, when you select a class and "Enter Classroom", you are viewing a Blackboard classroom, specifically designed to facilitate a classroom experience.

Most of the tools and layout of a Blackboard classroom are standard features, and this section will outline the core functions that you need to be aware of when entering your first module.

MODULE MENU

To get to this page, you have already utilised the Module Menu featured on the left side of this classroom. This is the primary tool utilised to navigate around your classrooms, and whilst it may look different to this one, it is as simple to use.
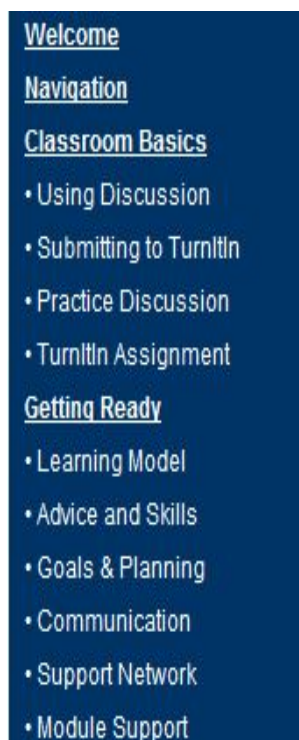
When you access the module, you will find a list of underlined and bulleted text in the left navigation frame,

which gives you the Module Menu. The underlined text represents the main topic pages, while the bulleted text represents subtopics. Click on an underlined or bulleted word to open the corresponding topic or subtopic.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Most classes will open on the Announcements page of the class, however if this is not the case it can be easily accessed from the Module Menu.

The announcement page is used by you Instructor/Tutor to provide updates applicable to the entire class. This could be a welcome message, notification of feedback completion or a change to the module structure. It's important to read any new announcements that become visible.
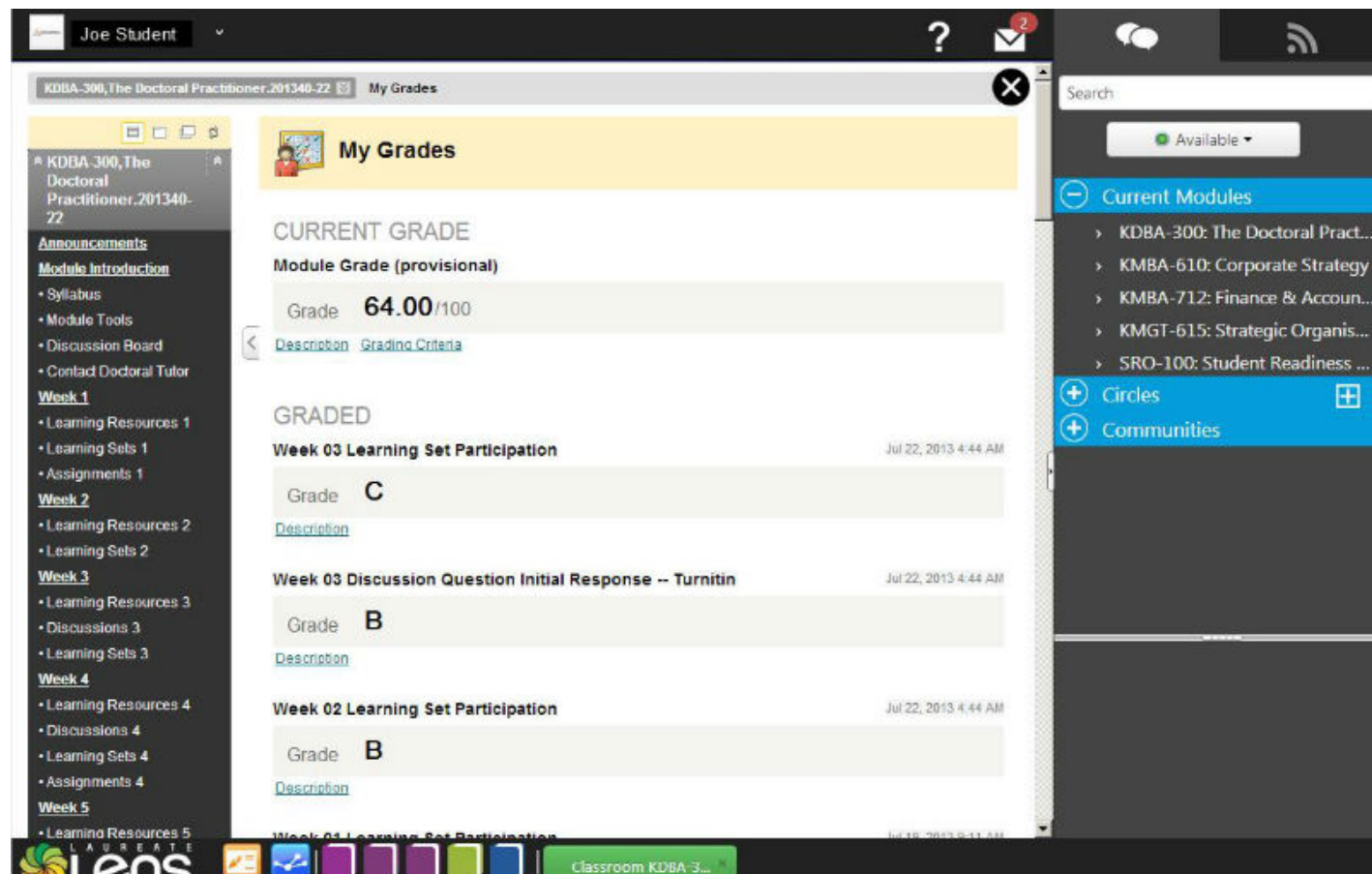
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LIVE CHAT

If this feature is enabled in your classroom, you will see it listed in the Module Menu. The Live Chat feature is open to the entire class, and allows you to chat synchronously with classmates, just like Instant Messenger. Many of our students find this to be a useful tool when coordinating group work, or arranging study sessions.

Of course, you are also free to use the tools in LENS to chat and message individual classmates that are studying in your class or who you have added to your circle of friends.

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GRADES

Throughout the module you will want to have regular access to your grades. These are accessible within each class via the "My Grades" link within the Module Menu.

My Grades presents you with both grade information for each assignment submitted, as well as a calculated

current module grade.

Full details on grading can be found in the Centre for Student Success:

Masters Grading: http://success.ohecampus.com/index.php?mod=dcp&act=navigationindex&navigationid=3691

Doctoral Grading: http://success.ohecampus.com/index.php?mod=dcp&act=navigationindex&navigationid=3692

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CONTACT INSTRUCTOR/TUTOR

Dependant on the programme you are in, you will see different terminology used to describe this feature, however the functionality and purpose is the same.

Most of our programmes use the terminology "Contact Instructor", but this can also be "Contact Tutor" and "Contact Faculty". This is your private communication channel with the instructor/tutor of your class.

The functionality in Blackboard is actually a classroom message system that allows you to send private messages to anyone inside your classroom. However, since LENS already provides you with those tools, the primary use within our programmes is the receipt of formal feedback and recorded communications between the instructor and you as student.

As described in the "Module Support" section of this Student Readiness Orientation, by selecting "Contact Instructor" from the Module Menu you will have the ability to create a New Message and view your Inbox and Sent items.

Be sure you check your Inbox regularly, as this is where you will receive your official feedback and grade confirmations.

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DISCUSSION AND SUBMISSION

Critical to all our students is the ability to participate in your classroom discussion, and submit work for assessment. If you have completed the previous sections of this course, you should be fairly experienced in both of these functions.

We have provided detailed summaries of both in PDF format for you to Save and Print as needed.

Using Discussion PDF

Using TurnItIn PDF

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Next, click on Technology Basics.