TOURO
UNIVERSITY
WESTERN DIVISION

Center for Innovative
Learning and Teaching

Canvas/Blackboard Feature Comparison

Blackboard	Canvas	How do I do it in Canvas?	How is Canvas Different?
Make Course Available	**Publish Course**	Documentation Video	• Canvas courses are unpublished as a default. Instructors must "publish" their course for students to access it. • Publishing a course is irreversible---once published, a course stays published however you can change the start date of the course.
Announcements	**Announcements**	Documentation Video	• Users can receive notifications via Facebook, Twitter, email & text. • Canvas allows students to comment on an announcement if instructor allows. • Announcements appear on the User Dashboard. • Canvas has the ability to add RSS feeds.

Files	Files	[Documentation](#)	• Everything you upload or copy into Files is accessible to students by default. • You can create folders to organize materials; folders and items can be locked. • Drag & drop files into folders. • All files in this area can downloaded as a .zip file. • You can upload a .zip file to this area and Canvas will unzip it for you.
Blackboard Content Items	**Pages**	[Documentation](#) [Video](#)	• Pages are essentially a Wiki (you can edit and track their history). • You can grant the ability to edit the Page to students. • Pages can include text, video, links to your files, Kaltura, YouTube, video files and links to other course content such as assignments, discussion boards, etc. • If you customize the Home Page layout of your Canvas course, you'll be creating a special page named Front Page. • Pages can be linked to other Pages.
Discussion Forums	**Discussions**	[Documentation](#) [Video](#)	• Can require users to post to the discussion before viewing other replies. • Instructors and students can easily view/filter posts. • Receive notifications via social web services, text, etc. • Group Discussions are seamlessly integrated into Group Pages. • In order for students to attach a file to a post, instructor must allow file attachments in Course Settings.

Send Email	Messages / Conversations	[Documentation](#) [Video](#)	• Private messages appear in your Conversations Inbox; Notifications will push out to Email, Twitter, Facebook, Text Message depending upon your selection. • Discussion responses can be accessed from Inbox. • Messages can include file attachments, webcam recordings, audio or video uploads, or just text. • Conversation messages are also generated by a comment made by a student or instructor on an assignment.
Assignments	Assignments	[Documentation](#) [Video](#)	• Canvas uses a SpeedGrader. It gives the instructor the ability to comment/markup a document, without downloading the student's submission. • When an Assignment is created, it is added to the Assignment page, Syllabus and Calendar. If updated, all links are updated. • You must create an assignment to create a column in the Gradebook. Interactive rubrics can be used for grading. • Students can submit multimedia assignments • Instructors can leave multimedia comments. • Peer Review assignments can be created.

| Tests / Quizzes / Surveys | Quizzes / Surveys | [Documentation](#)

[Video](#) | • Quizzes/Tests/Surveys are automatically submitted if it is a timed assessment.
• Timer can be adjusted for individual students to allow for extended time.
• Instructor can selectively allow an additional attempt for a student.
• Tests can be edited after student submissions and are automatically regraded.
• Instructor can add Fudge Points.
• Test questions and answers can contain audio/video/images.
• Canvas does not have "Hot Spot" questions types available at this time.
• Quizzes can be graded or not graded.
• Surveys (also found here) can be graded or not graded. |
| No Equivalent | SpeedGrader | [Documentation](#)

[Video](#) | • Grade/give feedback on all submissions for an assignment/test quickly in one place.
• You can mark up the submitted file by adding comments, drawing, highlighting or text.
• Able to download file as annotated PDF.
• iPad app is available for the SpeedGrader (Free).
• Record audio and video feedback for each student assignment.
• Sort students in various ways so that you work on them alphabetically, or by submission date, or anonymously (their names can be hidden from the teacher), or by whether or not they've submitted the assignment. |

| Grade Center | Grade Book | [Documentation](#) [Video](#) | • You must create an assignment to create a column in the Gradebook.
• The SpeedGrader tool displays submitted assignments, grading rubric, and media comment options all in one interface without downloading files.
• Grades can be weighted.
• Easily sort columns in one click by due date or assignment group.
• Instructors can curve grades.
• Instructors can Mute assignments.
• Message students who haven't submitted yet, scored less than or more/less than a certain criterion on an assignment.
• Download submissions from the grades area or just view them online in Canvas.
• Create text or media comments to provide assessment feedback.
• Students can message instructor within the grade column.
• Columns for assignment groups are shaded, and appear at far right of Gradebook by default.
• Students can enter "what-if" scenarios to calculate hypothetical grades. |
| Rubrics | Rubrics | [Documentation](#) [Video](#) | • Integrates with gradable items.
• Ability to add media comments and integration with SpeedGrader interface.
• You can override the grade the rubric produces.
• Student viewable. |

Modify Course Menu	Modify Course Menu	[Documentation](#)	• At this time, Canvas does not allow you to create unique course navigation menu links nor rename existing menu links. • You can hide menu items from students. • Modules are used in Canvas for organizing content. • You can also rearrange the order in which these navigation menu items are displayed.
Calendar	Calendar	[Documentation](#) [Video](#)	• You can copy the calendar feed link into any calendar app that takes iCal feeds (Google Calendar, iCal, Outlook, etc.) • Calendar is automatically populated with items that have Due Dates. • Drag & drop items on calendar to make changes in dates. Any change made is applied automatically to all objects associated with that item in various areas of the course. • Instructors and students can view multiple course calendars in one view. • Each user also has a personal calendar (listed as his/her name) for events that aren't class-related. • Calendar items will be listed in the Syllabus page automatically. • The calendar has a scheduling tool.

Learning Units	Modules	Documentation	• Modules are similar to folders/Learning Modules in Blackboard. • Drag & drop for ordering Modules and module content. • Can set Module prerequisites and Module completion requirements. • Can require students to go through Module requirements sequentially. • Modules can be "locked" until a given date. • Modules appear on the Modules page.
Groups	Groups	Documentation Video	• Groups have access to many course tools including Announcements, Pages, Files, Discussion, Conferences and Collaboration.
Notification Dashboard	Recent Activity	Documentation	• Recent Activity links allow you to expand, remove or navigate to that item within the course.
No Equivalent	Communication Preferences	Documentation Video	• You can add additional contact methods besides TUC email, which is the default (e.g., text, Twitter, personal email). • Define the objects that trigger the notification.
No Equivalent	Syllabus	Documentation Video	• Connected to course calendar. • Automatically displays all course events and graded assignments in a chronological list view. • As you create/edit objects in the course, the Syllabus reflects the new or adjusted content. • Objects on the Syllabus are hyperlinked to content. • The page can be edited for customization purposes.

Journal	Workaround: Text Assignment Submission	[Documentation](#)	• Canvas does not have a separate Journal tool. Users are encouraged to create a Text Entry Assignment instead.
Blog	Workaround: Discussion Board or 3rd Party Tool		• Have students use a 3rd party application such as Blogger.com and share the URL with the class or create them their own Discussion Board in the course or a Group.
Wikis	Pages OR Collaborations	[Documentation](#) [Documentation](#)	• Pages become wikis when editing is allowed for teachers and students. OR • Collaborations creates a Google Doc for selected students to edit.
No Equivalent	Collaborations	[Documentation](#)	• Allows faculty and students to easily integrate Google Docs technology directly into their course.
No Equivalent	LTI Tools	[Documentation](#)	• Canvas has the ability for instructors to integrate LTI's directly in their course (e.g., Google Apps, TEDEd, Khan Academy)
No Equivalent	Help	[Documentation](#)	• Canvas provides 24/7 Chat, Phone, Email and Online Guides support. Students/Faculty contact Canvas directly.
ePortfolio	ePortfolio	[Documentation](#) [Video](#)	• Allows students to retrieve student's assignments, projects from previous Canvas courses. • Allow for different levels of sharing, can be shared with specific users or public to the whole world.
Statistic Tracking	Course / Student Analytics	[Documentation](#) [Video](#)	• Course Statistics identify which content items students are interacting with. • Student Analytics identify not only specific user tracking, but assignment and grade

			distribution trends.
Mobile App	**Mobile App**	[Documentation](#)	• There are several free mobile apps available to download for both instructors and students. The Canvas App for iOS and Android, as well as the SpeedGrader app for the iOS Tablet only.
Lesson Plan	**No equivalent**		• Modules and pages can be used to organize content and activities in Canvas.
Turn Edit Mode Off	**Student View**	[Documentation](#)	• Allows you to view the course in the same manner students see it.
No equivalent	**Document Preview**	[Documentation](#)	• Canvas allows in-browser viewing of document types browsers typically do not display. • Instructors can set previews to open automatically.
Users	**People**	[Documentation](#)	• Instructors can views student activity reports, total time in course.

Adapted from the Information Technology Division at Montclair State University; the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and Libraries and Information Technology at Emory University.