Teaching and Learning News

Top Stories

Course planning and design support for the fall term

As we look toward course planning and design for the Fall 2020 term, please know that there is a high level of support available to you.

We've put together a Transitioning to Online Teaching page that consolidates supports and resources that will help you shift from face-to-face to online teaching. You'll find information on a variety of topics, including different course design possibilities, considerations for designing assessments and exams, working with your TAs online, web conferencing tools at Carleton, and more. We've also created an infographic with basic guidelines to consider as you move your course online.

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We've also revamped our training to increase our offerings and include a wide range of topics. There are 70 online workshops scheduled this month that will cover a variety of online student engagement tools, accessible and inclusive design, online assessment strategies, pedagogical practices for online learning, and more.

As you develop your courses, remember, we're here to help. Please reach out through our intake form—whether you need quick tips for integrating an online quiz in your course or you need assistance to strategize an alternate approach for an online course, we can provide support across all disciplines.

**Update: cuLearn will change in May 2021**

Prior to the pandemic, Carleton was conducting an evaluation of three shortlisted learning management systems (LMS) to replace the technology underlying cuLearn (Moodle). As a reminder, Carleton needs to adopt a new LMS to better support its community, particularly relating to performance (improving speed, responsiveness and reliability), ease of use, and enhanced support to students and instructors.

Three vendors submitted proposals: Blackboard (Learn Ultra), Instructure (Canvas) and D2L (Brightspace). All three products were evaluated in January and February by faculty, contract instructors, teaching assistants, students and staff. The vendors conducted demonstrations and interviews on campus in mid-February, with all feedback and scores provided back to the evaluation team prior to the university pivoting to remote delivery.

Due to the pandemic, the finalization of the evaluation was placed on hold. Recently, the LMS evaluation team completed its work and selected the platform that will replace Moodle at Carleton. Negotiations with the provider have begun. Once negotiations have been completed, we will be able to update the community on Carleton's new LMS.

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**Events**

**Teaching Online for the First Time - Let's Take a Deep Breath!**
June 3 & 19, 1 - 3 PM
June 26, 3 - 5 PM

**cuLearn Course Design Drop-In Session**
June 3, 2 - 3:30 PM
June 15 & 26, 10 - 11:30 AM

**Zoom - Online Training Sessions**
June 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2:30 - 3:30 PM

**Learning Outcomes: Blueprints for Course Design**
June 4, 10 - 11:30 AM

**Choosing Your Tools: Wise Use of Web Conferencing Online**
June 4 & 23, 2 - 3:30 PM

**Welcome to My Online Classroom - With Martha Mullally**
June 4, 1 - 2:30 PM

**A Tour of cuLearn Tools**
June 5 & 18, 10 AM - 12 PM

**Zoom Drop-In Session**
June 5, 8, 15, 19, 22 & 26, 11 AM - 12 PM
Any change to the LMS will occur in May 2021. cuLearn will NOT be replaced for Fall 2020 or Winter 2021. As part of the LMS project roadmap, we anticipate piloting the system with volunteers in Winter 2021. There will be extensive support for Carleton’s teaching and learning community to transition to the new platform. Details around this will be shared once negotiations have concluded.

Blog: Is there anybody out there? Online courses and the need for connecting to students

By Ali Arya, Associate Dean (Planning and Awards), Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs & Associate Professor, School of Information Technology

Working from home and taking online courses are not new phenomena, but the COVID-19 global crisis made them household topics for all of us. Online courses saved our winter term (thanks to the great collaboration between instructors and students, and support from the university), and they are going to stick around for the summer and possibly fall terms. They might even become a more significant and permanent part of our educational system.

As we try to solve all logistic issues to move our courses online (and turn off our video streams to hide our messy hair and pyjamas), we might overlook something essential: the need for human connections and interactions. Read more.

Announcing the new Carleton Online

With the new realities of the current public health crisis, more Carleton students will be learning online and remotely than ever before. To help students adapt and succeed in this new learning environment, we are pleased to announce the launch of Carleton Online.
Born out of CUOL (Carleton University Online), Carleton Online is the new hub for the university's online learners. In addition to providing access to select Carleton courses through our VOD (Video on Demand) service, we're providing direct support for students who are learning online.

Our new website features a collection of resources to help students succeed in an online environment and connects them with other student support services at Carleton to ensure that they get the most out of their online learning experience.

Visit us at carleton.ca/online to find out more or follow us on Twitter.

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**Tips for teaching with video recordings**

The transition to online teaching has given instructors the opportunity to rethink when and how they deliver lectures and presentations. Video recordings are a great option for any class structure and expand the reach and impact of traditional, web-enhanced, hybrid, flipped, and fully online courses.

We've pulled together a couple of blogs from the archives to help you with your video recordings:

- [A trick for recording picture-in-picture (screen and video)](#)
- [Tips on engagement in video recorded lectures](#)

Get more tips and support resources for Kaltura Capture here.

We're also hosting a number of workshops about making and integrating video recordings into your online classroom. Find out more and register here.

Can't make the workshops? No problem. You can view our workshop notes and a recording of a session here.
New Collaborative Indigenous Learning Bundles available

The Carleton University Collaborative Indigenous Learning Bundles are an online teaching resource that enable instructors to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing into the classroom. Created and delivered by Indigenous experts, the Bundles provide a factual and theoretical basis to help instructors bridge the gap between their course content and topics relevant to Canadian and Indigenous peoples today.

Since the launch of the first four Bundles last year, an additional seven Bundles are now available. Topics include Indigenous Law and Human Rights, Cultural Conceptions of the Life Cycle, Metis People and the Metis Nation, The Inuit Story, and more!

Visit the Collaborative Indigenous Learning Bundles website to learn more and to request access to the Bundles. We are also hosting an Introduction to Collaborative Indigenous Learning Bundles workshop on June 18 from 10 a.m. - noon. Register here.

First summer term I-CUREUS and SaPP programs a success

The number of applications for the first summer I-CUREUS and Students as Partners (SaPP) programs has exceeded expectations. We are happy to announce that 46 students have been approved to participate in the programs this summer.

The I-CUREUS program gives students the opportunity to be paid for conducting research in their discipline or an area of interest. In addition to developing their research skills, students will benefit from mentoring and exposure to research scholarships. This summer, we’ve been able to provide more of these opportunities to students thanks to additional funding support from the Office of the Vice-President (Research and International), the Faculty of Engineering and Design,
The Students as Partners Program fosters greater collaboration between instructors and students in developing and designing courses. It allows instructors and learning support staff to provide a paid work experience to undergraduate students interested in teaching innovation and curriculum design.

Information about upcoming opportunities for the fall term will be available shortly.

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**Book a virtual Career Services workshop**

Career Services is inviting instructors teaching this summer to [book a virtual Career in the Classroom Workshop](#).

If you are delivering an online synchronous lecture or seminar, Career Services can visit your virtual class and deliver the workshop via your selected web conferencing tool. If you are delivering an online asynchronous course, they can send recorded presentations of the workshop to include on your cuLearn course page.

The virtual career workshops can help your students:

- Learn about what they can do with their degree
- Identify the skills they're learning through your classes and assignments
- Explore the experiential learning opportunities available to them

You can book a virtual career workshop for your spring/summer course(s) by filling out the [workshop request form](#).

For more information, or to discuss other ways Career Services can help you incorporate career education into your online course, please contact Rocio Alvarez at [careeroncampus@carleton.ca](mailto:careeroncampus@carleton.ca).