Strategies for successful teaching using NU Online Blackboard SP11

This is a series of updates that promote successful teaching and learning using NU Online Blackboard. Through regular updates and through our comprehensive NU Online Instructor Resource Center, NU Online presents numerous strategies/approaches to help you and your students to get the most out of the latest features from NU Online Blackboard.

This month, we'll be focusing on the updated Blackboard Collaborate as well as three additional Blackboard features: the new Avatar feature, EvalKit, and the Respondus LockDown Browser.

Blackboard Collaborate

Blackboard Collaborate is a web conferencing tool that allows students and instructors to hold synchronous discussions, share presentations, and record meetings. Use Blackboard Collaborate to hold a real-time class meeting with students, host virtual “office hours,” and offer a space for students to present their own multimedia presentations.
Conduct class meetings

Class meetings through Blackboard Collaborate can help students feel more connected to the course, each other, and to you as the instructor. Host Q&A sessions, provide an introduction to your course setup, or facilitate a group discussion.

Host virtual office hours

Host virtual office hours to meet with individual students from anywhere across the globe. You can share PowerPoint presentations, your computer desktop, or go over course materials.
Create a virtual presentation space for students

Use Collaborate to provide students a space to give multimedia presentations which can be recorded for later viewing.

Ready to use Blackboard Collaborate in your course? Visit the Blackboard Collaborate page on the Instructor Resource Center for details and easy to follow tutorials.

Upload an Avatar in Blackboard

Using an image, or “avatar,” within your NU Online Blackboard course allows you to personalize the course experience by putting a face to the name of students and instructors alike.
Your NU Online Blackboard profiles allows you to upload an image, or “avatar,” to represent you within Blackboard.

Ready to use this option? Visit the following tutorial for a step by step demonstration: [Upload an Avatar in Blackboard](#).

**EvalKit**

End-of-course evaluations in EvaluationKit are now available directly from a link on your NU Online Campus tab within Blackboard. Students completing evaluations will no longer need to log into EvalKit in a separate window. Direct access will also be available via each course home page starting in Winter 2014 courses.
Respondus LockDown Browser

Respondus LockDown Browser is a custom browser that allows you to lock down the testing environment within Blackboard. When students take a test using the LockDown Browser, they cannot print, copy, or access other websites or applications, or close the test until it is submitted for grading.

For instructions on installing and getting started with LockDown Browser, as well as instructions for your students, visit the NU Online Instructor Resource Center Respondus LockDown Browser page.

If you have any comments, feedback, or suggestions for features to showcase, email nuonlineid@neu.edu or contact your instructional designer.