Moodle Overview

Dr. Rick Jerz

What is Moodle?

- LMS – Learning Management System
- CMS – Course Management System

- Other LMSs
  - Blackboard
  - Canvas
  - Desire2Learn
  - WebCT

General Moodle Requirements

- PC or Mac
- Tablets and smartphones
- Browsers
  - Firefox
  - Safari
  - Chrome
  - MS Edge
  - Internet Explorer >10
- A smartphone app is available but not needed

Accessing Your Course & Login

- Dr. Jerz "Welcome" email & "enrollment key"
- Go to http://www.edu-gen.com/moodle and click on your course
- If you already have an account, login, enter the enrollment key
- If new to Moodle, click "Create new account" and complete the form. Moodle emails a URL to confirm. Enter the enrollment key

- Did you forget your login information? Use Moodle's reset link

Quick Overview

- Top Moodle navigation bar
- Course navigation bar
- Course Administrative Items
- Pop-out sidebar with a few other items
- Course topics, collapsible

- Simple interface!

- Maroon-colored text - hyperlinks to additional content

Moodle's Course "Homepage"

- Course Administrative Items
  - Start Here – a repeat of my Welcome email
  - Syllabus – the syllabus containing course information
  - Checklist – a tool to help you know what you have done
  - Videos... - information about viewing videos and a list of currently provided course videos
  - Course Calendar – a list of all course topics by week, with assignments and dates
  - Any Questions – an optional forum for you to ask course questions

- Moodle shows activity completion as "Done"

Top Navigation Bar

- **Home icon**
  - Go to the homepage for Education Generation
- **Edu-Gen courses**
  - Lists all available courses. An enrollment key is needed to access courses.
- **Dashboard**
  - Course overview of your courses
  - Upcoming events – next ten days
  - Timeline – some flexibility controlling what you see
  - Calendar – a calendar view. You can add items
- **Help**
  - My contact information
  - FAQs – Frequently asked questions
  - My "how-to-use" Moodle videos
  - Moodle community

Top Navigation Bar - Continued

- **Notifications** – Moodle's notification system
- **Messages** – Moodle's messaging system
- Your **profile** and Moodle settings
  - Forum setting – Change to "no digest" to receive individual forum posts

Course Navigation Bar

- Course – course homepage
- Participants – others in this course
- Grades – your grade book for this course
  - Very up-to-date
  - Accurate weights per category
  - Each assignment and final grade are shown
  - Assignments not begun show a dash and are not included in your grade
  - Assignment not done by due date become a zero (0)

Course Topics

- Module objectives and textbook readings
- Copy of weekly email containing instructions
- Topic resources and assignments
- Support materials (e.g., Excel models)
- Quizzes
- Assignments
- Discussion Forums
- General questions forum

- Some courses might have a few more or a few less items

Quizzes (Self-Assessments)

- Multiple choice, true/false, or essay questions
- Self-Assessments – you can repeat these
  - Your highest grade counts
- Quiz features
  - Answer questions in any order
  - Auto-saved every two minutes
  - Ability to "flag" questions
  - A navigation block
  - Click "finish attempt" when you are done
  - Graded automatically (except for essay questions)
  - Exams timed. Countdown timer (show or hide)
  - 1 point per question
  - Exams are weighted according to the syllabus

Assignments

- Used to upload files
- Drag and drop supported
- Upload from file system
- You can provide (optional) comments
- You can edit submissions up to the due date
- Usually graded after the due date
- Moodle will send an email after assignment is graded
- Activity completion shows "Done"

Forums (Discussions)

- Used to engage students and instructors in educational discussion
- Forum -> Topics -> Posts
- The default view is "nested" (indented)
- Two editors: simple, advanced
- 30 minutes to edit your post, then it is fixed
- New posts are highlighted in yellow
- If not receiving email, check your "junk" mailbox
- Add edu-gen.com to your email's whitelist
- Posts are regularly graded. The cumulative grade is in your grade book
- "Permalink" is a direct URL link to any post

Most Frequently Used Activities

- Quizzes
- Assignments
- Forums

Red Targets

- Switches to "single-topic" view
- Top "Admin" plus a sing le topic
- Navigate topics with the dropdown at bottom
- Switch to "all topics" by clicking:
    "Jump to Main course page"

Collapsable Right-side Column

- A few useful items

- Online users
- Search forums
- Videos
- Activities

Problems?

- Very reliable

- Please let me know if you encounter any problems, and *not the university!*

Summary

- Very user-friendly
- Moodle is actively maintained and improved
- Your suggestions and feedback are appreciated