New Features – to be released May 13, 2013

Every 3 weeks the Canvas engineers fix any bugs in the Canvas software, and will sometimes add new features. The next update will happen on Saturday, June 1, 2013; some of the updates include:

The “Roll Call” attendance tool makes taking attendance, and grading, easier within Canvas, especially for Blended Courses.

The Attendance tool makes recording who is present in your class fast and easy with a list view and a drag-and-drop seating chart. Attendance information also integrates with the Gradebook, which is the only part of this tool students can view. Attendance is an external tool that will need to be configured in your account or course. We are working now with Canvas for implementation upon your request to the Department of Academic Technology. Documentation will be available on 5/11 as part of our release.

Quiz Notifications to go to students when instructors make changes.

Students will receive a notification when an instructor changes the due date of a quiz in the Calendar, Assignments page, or within the Quiz settings. Instructors still have the option to notify students when quiz content has changed. These changes will help students better plan any coursework updates while not being burdened with any unnecessary notifications.

Students to receive a Quiz Logout Warning if they are logged out of Canvas while taking a quiz.

Students will see a browser warning banner if they are logged out of Canvas while taking a quiz. This situation can occur when students open multiple Canvas browser tabs. If a student is disconnected from their quiz, they can log in through a popup window and resume their quiz.
Assignments Page

The Assignment creation process is more streamlined, meaning instructors now select the assessment type before creating the assignment details. On the Assignments page, the assignment type drop-down menu below the assignment title will appear during the initial creation of an assignment. Once the assignment has been created, the drop-down menu will no longer be part of the page. The image below is a video clip. Click to view.

New Screencast shows an effective workflow for enabling Peer Reviews

The ability to enable students to “peer review” each other’s assignments is a desirable feature for faculty in many Canvas courses. This new screencast, which runs about 4 and a half minutes with audio narration, shows the process of implementing peer reviews for assignments in Canvas, from assigning them to students to collecting them at the time of grading. The screencast is also a simulation, which means that you will be doing some of the clicking to practice the steps involved. Visit the link to the screencast at https://usfconnect8.stfrancis.edu/peerreviewsfaculty/

Canvas Tip: Disable a student’s ability to edit or delete discussion posts.

You can disable a student’s ability to edit or delete posts and prevent the possibility of “gaming” a discussion that requires a post before replies can be read. Go to Settings→Course Details→Edit Course Details→More Options→ and uncheck the option that lets students edit or delete posts. Then update. Click video below.