

The Canvas Connection

May 31, 2013

View past issues of the Canvas Connection at Learnit.stfrancis.edu/canvasconnection

New Features – to be released June 1, 2013

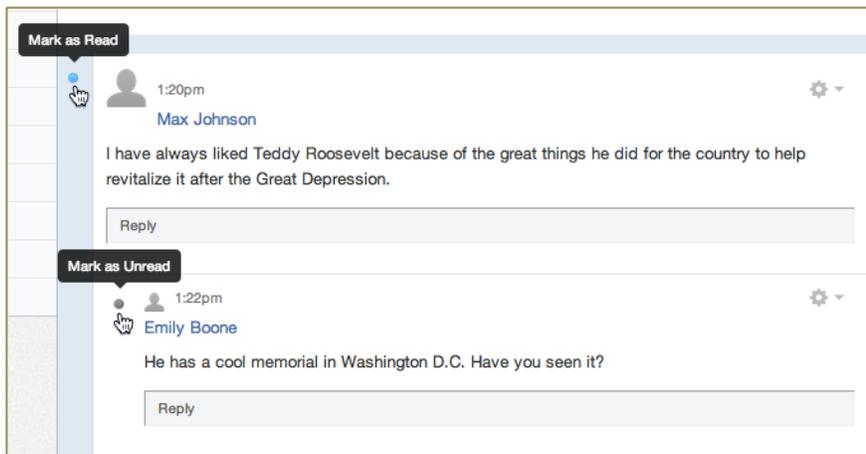
Every 3 weeks the Canvas engineers fix any bugs in the Canvas software, and sometimes adds new features. The next update on **Saturday, June 1, 2013**; includes some major new features and modifications to the Canvas system for instructors: These include:

- The ability to mark Canvas Discussion items “unread” for future perusal.
- The resurrection of “Chat”
- Start and End dates for non-graded discussions.
- The ability to view total points as percentages in gradebooks (only with non-weighted groups).
- Improved item analysis and student analysis of quiz results.

Read on!

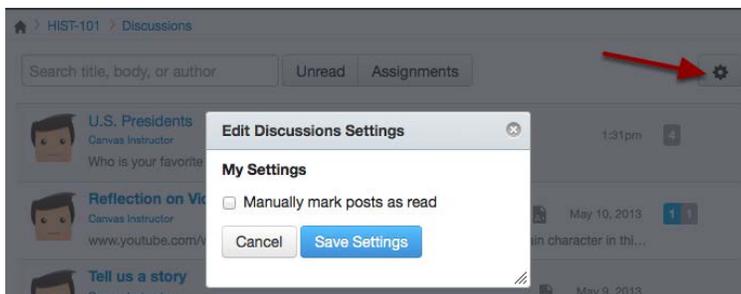
Toggle Posts as Read/Unread

Users can toggle posts in Discussions as read and unread by clicking the indicator next to the post. Blue indicators represent unread posts, and gray indicators represent read posts. This toggle option is also enabled when filtering posts as Unread.



And on a related note, manually Mark Posts as Read

Users will have the option to tell Canvas that they would rather mark their posts manually. When selected, posts *will not be marked as read until the user manually clicks the blue indicator to mark the post as read.*



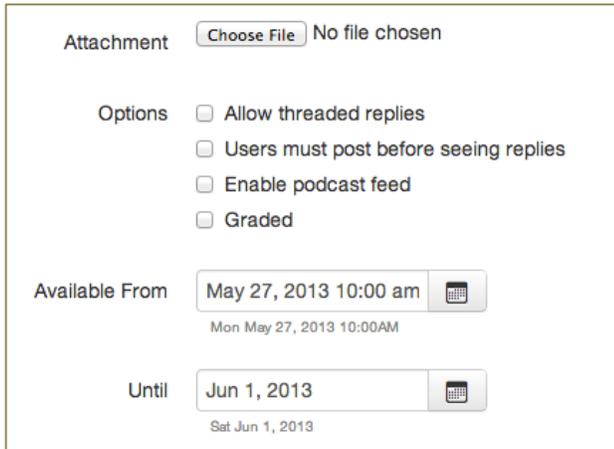
Chat is now resurrected after an absence of several months.

The Chat tool is a text-only feature that allows more live interaction in courses where real-time collaboration and discussion are possible with student schedules. Instructors can view chat history.

Chat will appear in the course navigation links. If instructors do not want to use Chat as part of their course, they can [customize their course navigation links](#) to hide Chat. **Note:** Chat *is not recommended* for holding “virtual office hours,” as the ability to view a chat history does not protect confidentiality. The *Conference* tool in Canvas, powered by “BigBlueButton” is the preferred choice for holding virtual office hours with students.

Lock Non-Graded Discussions on a Specified Date

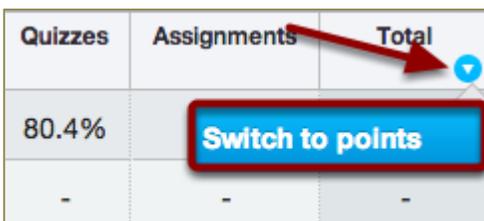
Instructors can set availability dates for non-graded discussions and lock the discussion for comments on a specified date automatically, though instructors still have the option to manually lock the topic at any time. Instructors will always see all Discussion topics; students will not see a Discussion topic until the Available From date. After the Until date, the entire Discussion topic is available in a read-only format for everyone. The Available From date defaults to 12am, and the Until date (lock date) defaults to 11:59pm (as does the Due Date option in graded Discussions). Alternate times may be typed manually into the date fields.



The screenshot shows a form for configuring discussion options. It includes an attachment section with a 'Choose File' button and 'No file chosen' text. Below are four unchecked checkboxes: 'Allow threaded replies', 'Users must post before seeing replies', 'Enable podcast feed', and 'Graded'. The 'Available From' field is set to 'May 27, 2013 10:00 am' with a calendar icon and a tooltip showing 'Mon May 27, 2013 10:00AM'. The 'Until' field is set to 'Jun 1, 2013' with a calendar icon and a tooltip showing 'Sat Jun 1, 2013'.

Points vs Percentages in the Gradebook Total Column

Instructors can choose whether to view grades in the Gradebook total column by points or percentage. This feature offers grading flexibility for instructors depending on their preferred grading styles and can be accessed by hovering over the total column and selecting their grading view of choice. **Please note** that this feature *is only available in Gradebook courses with non-weighted assignment groups*. Students will still see cumulative points by hovering over the numbers in the total column.



The image shows a portion of a gradebook table. The columns are 'Quizzes', 'Assignments', and 'Total'. The 'Total' column header has a blue dropdown arrow. A red arrow points from the 'Total' header to a blue button labeled 'Switch to points' that is overlaid on the table. The table content shows '80.4%' in the 'Total' column for the first row, and dashes in the 'Total' column for the second and third rows.

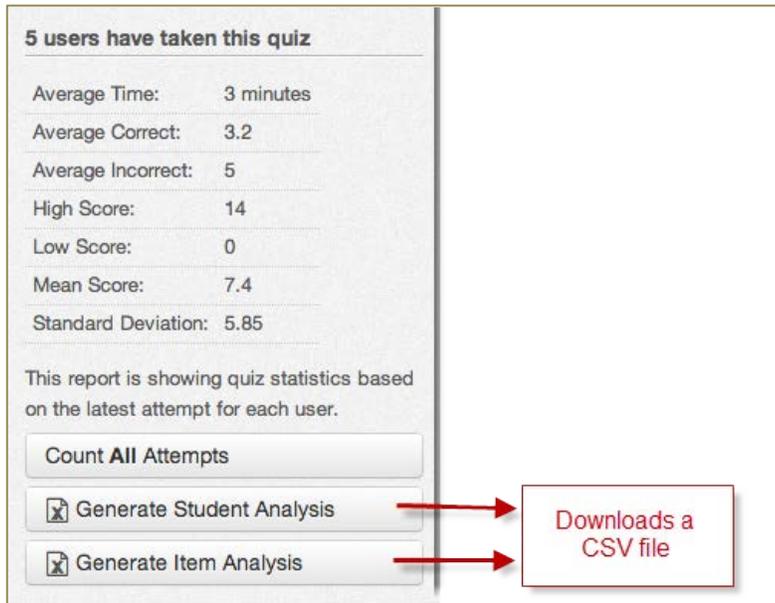
Quizzes	Assignments	Total
		80.4%
		-
		-

For a refresher on grade-weighting, visit the [screencast tutorial](#).

Quizzes

Item Analysis and Student Analysis

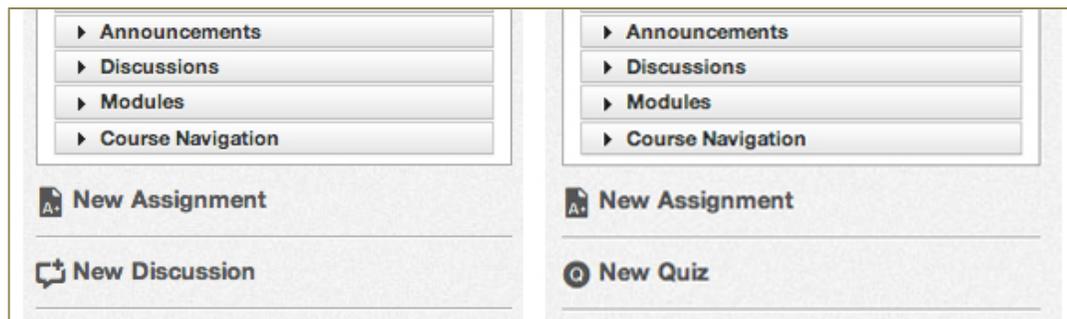
To better help instructors and course designers further understand Quiz Statistics, Canvas now generates two separate CSV download files. Download CSV is renamed *Generate Student Analysis* and still provides the general quiz information for each student. A new option called *Generate Item Analysis* helps instructors and course designers gauge how effective their quiz questions are. Both buttons show a progress indicator and auto-download the CSV file to your computer when complete. CSV files auto-open in Microsoft Excel on USF computers and can be saved as Excel (.xlsx) files. **Note:** *Generate Item Analysis* will not work *at this time* for quizzes that have *questions* in groups *selected randomly* from question banks.



The screenshot displays the '5 users have taken this quiz' statistics panel. It lists various metrics: Average Time (3 minutes), Average Correct (3.2), Average Incorrect (5), High Score (14), Low Score (0), Mean Score (7.4), and Standard Deviation (5.85). Below the statistics, there is a note: 'This report is showing quiz statistics based on the latest attempt for each user.' Two buttons are visible: 'Count All Attempts' and two buttons with progress indicators: 'Generate Student Analysis' and 'Generate Item Analysis'. Red arrows point from these two buttons to a red-bordered box containing the text 'Downloads a CSV file'.

Quick Links to Quizzes, Discussions, and Assignments to Enhance Assessment Workflow

To complement the Assignments page, Quizzes and Discussions display quick links to other assignment types under the Content Selector sidebar. The Quizzes page has links to a new Assignment and a new Discussion, while the Discussions page has links to a new Assignment and a new Quiz.



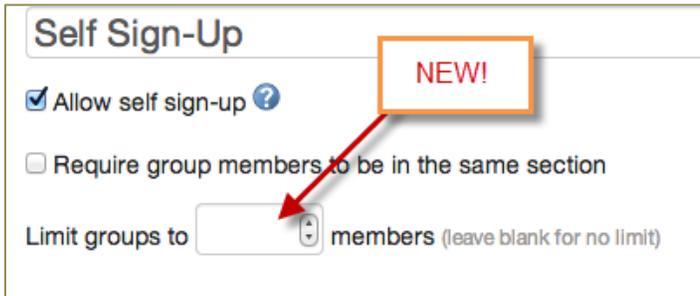
The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of the Content Selector sidebar. The left sidebar, representing the Quizzes page, includes links for 'Announcements', 'Discussions', 'Modules', 'Course Navigation', 'New Assignment', and 'New Discussion'. The right sidebar, representing the Discussions page, includes links for 'Announcements', 'Discussions', 'Modules', 'Course Navigation', 'New Assignment', and 'New Quiz'.

Still More...

Groups

Limit Sizes in Self-Assigned Groups

Instructors can specify a limit on the number of members within self-assigned groups. This setting is only activated when an instructor selects the self sign-up checkbox and can help balance the number of group members within the course.



Self Sign-Up

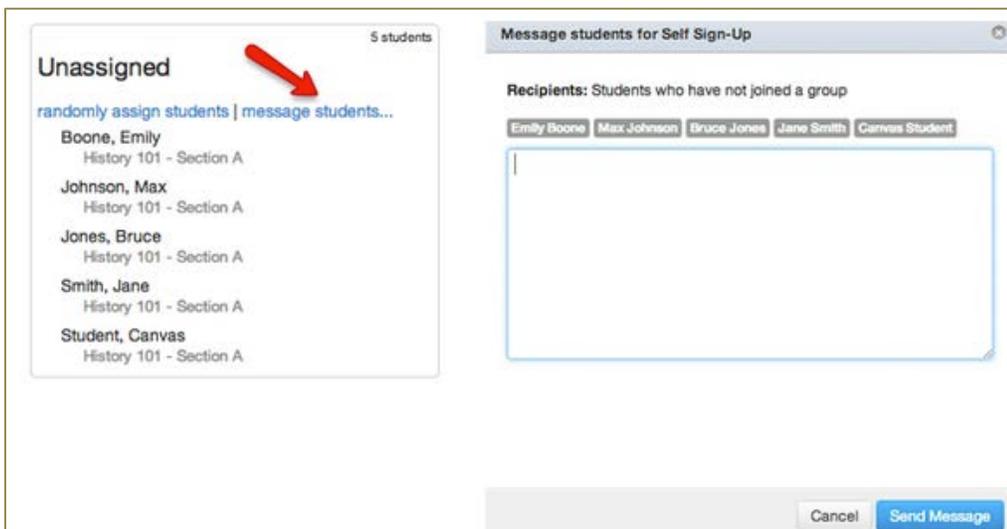
Allow self sign-up ?

Require group members to be in the same section

Limit groups to members (leave blank for no limit)

... and on a related note, instructors can message unassigned students.

Instructors can send messages to students who have not signed up for any self-assigned groups. The message students link is located within the unassigned window and will populate all unassigned students as message recipients.



Unassigned 5 students

randomly assign students | [message students...](#)

Boone, Emily
History 101 - Section A

Johnson, Max
History 101 - Section A

Jones, Bruce
History 101 - Section A

Smith, Jane
History 101 - Section A

Student, Canvas
History 101 - Section A

Message students for Self Sign-Up

Recipients: Students who have not joined a group

Emily Boone Max Johnson Bruce Jones Jane Smith Canvas Student

Cancel Send Message

Additionally (effective with the June 1 release)...

- Students will find it easier to embed images in their discussion posts within the rich content editor, being able to control attributes such as alternative text and image size.
- Students and instructors can still insert a URL or search for a Flickr Creative Commons image.
- Peer reviewers will receive one notification about peer assignments instead of two.
- Ungraded quizzes and surveys can be changed to a *graded* version after saving.
- Canvas no longer generates notifications for partially graded quizzes.
- The Resume Quiz button on the sidebar has been removed.
- When students are logged out *while taking a one-question-at-a-time quiz*, students are redirected back to the quiz after logging back into Canvas.