Need help preparing instruction or finals electronically? We can help!

Please contact us directly or submit a blackboard service desk ticket.

Blackboard Ally

Blackboard Ally adds new tools in your courses that tell you the current accessibility status for course materials. These tools include Ally Indicators and the Instructor Feedback module. One of the most common problems affecting student accessibility is related to images. Visually impaired users are at a disadvantage when images are displayed in a web page. Providing detailed descriptions to images assists both the visually impaired students as well as the students who use alternative formats. The following documents provide background information on this issue with guidance on how to resolve them: Add Alternative Description for Image Files and Add Alt Descriptions to Power Point Images.

FEATURED TEACHING & LEARNING WORKSHOPS

Introducing Blackboard Ally
Meet Blackboard Ally, a tool to help instructors make their electronic course content more accessible. Participants will learn how to navigate the Blackboard Ally plug-in software.

December 11, 2018 11am – 12:00pm

Blackboard Orientation Workshop for New Faculty
The Blackboard Orientation Workshop for New Faculty provides an introductory overview of how to use the University Learning Management System, Blackboard.

Thursday, December 6, 2018, 12 – 1:00pm
Thursday, December 12, 2018, 12 – 1:00pm

Register for these workshops & more at leiwus.edu/facultycenter/workshops
In this 3-workshop series, we’ll read and discuss *The Meaningful Writing Project*, a cross-institutional study of what types of writing assignments best foster student learning and engagement. In addition to revising our own writing assignments, we’ll discuss research-based practices that help students develop more productive writing processes and transfer writing knowledge across courses.

One of these workshops will be led by Dr. Dan Melzer, Associate Professor of English at UC Davis. Dr. Melzer has published widely about designing writing assignments, and his *Assignments Across the Curriculum: A National Study of College Writing* studies over 2,000 writing assignments from across campus at 100 different colleges and universities.

Faculty who attend all sessions will receive $100 in professional development funds, with space for 10 participants. Priority will be given to those teaching, proposing, or revising courses for the Gen Ed Advanced Writing requirement. [Register Here](#)

You’ll receive a copy of *The Meaningful Writing Project* when you register.

**Meeting Dates**

**Friday, January 11, 2019, TBD** (read first 2 chapters of *The Meaningful Writing Project*, discuss the writing process)

**Friday, January 18, 2019 2—4:30 PM** (workshop with Dr. Dan Melzer, complete *The Meaningful Writing Project*)

**Friday, February 1, 2—4:00 PM** (final discussion of *The Meaningful Writing Project*, share revised assignments, discuss how students transfer writing knowledge across courses)

For more information, please contact:
Tom McNamara  
Assistant Professor of English  
Writing Across the Curriculum Coordinator  
Office: DeLaSalle 219-N  
815-836-5647
This 5-part workshop series will focus on research-based practices for college writing instruction. We’ll both revise our writing assignments and explore everyday adjustments to our courses that can foster student writing development.

Two of these workshops will be led by guest scholars. Dr. Kim Jaxon, Associate Professor of English at California State University Chico, will lead a workshop on fostering a classroom community of writers, no matter the size of the course. Dr. Jaxon specializes in digital literacies and course design—as well as writing in the sciences. With the support of a National Science Foundation grant, Dr. Jaxon co-wrote *Composing Science: A Facilitator’s Guide to Writing in the Science Classroom*.

Dr. Dan Melzer, Associate Professor of English at University of California Davis, has published widely about designing writing assignments, and his *Assignments Across the Curriculum: A National Study of College Writing* studies over 2,000 writing assignments from all disciplines at 100 different colleges and universities.

Faculty who attend 4 of 5 sessions will receive $100 in professional development funds, with space for 10 participants. Those proposing or revising courses for the Gen Ed Advanced Writing requirement will be given priority. [Register Here]

**Workshop Dates**

**Friday, January 18, 2019, 2—4:30 PM** — Designing Effective Writing Assignments Across Disciplines (workshop with Dr. Dan Melzer)

**Friday, February 15, 2019, 2—4:00 PM** — Peer Response: Cultivating a Community of Writers

**Friday, March 29, 2—4:00 PM** — Responding to Student Writers

**Friday, April 26, 2—4:00 PM** — Demystifying Disciplinary Writing Conventions

May Institute — Epic Composition: Teaching Writing in Large Classes

Alternate meeting times will be held for those who cannot attend at these times.

For more information, please contact:
Tom McNamara
Assistant Professor of English
Writing Across the Curriculum Coordinator
Office: DeLaSalle 219-N
815-836-5647
12 Virtues of a Lasallian Educator for the 21st Century

The Office of Mission and Identity, the University Faculty Development Committee, and the De La Salle Christian Brothers are pleased to reprise 12 for 21: 12 Virtues of a Lasallian Educator for the 21st Century, a series of discussions focused on The Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher, a document inspired by the teachings of Saint John Baptist de La Salle and published formally in 1785 by Brother Agathon, the fifth Superior General of the De La Salle Christian Brothers. Often considered one of the most significant works in our Lasallian heritage, the 12 Virtues have been studied, taught and espoused by Lasallian educators for decades. 12 for 21 is an opportunity to better understand the history and original context of this document and to discuss what these Virtues mean for Lasallian educators in a 21st Century higher education setting.

Each of the four sessions will focus on three Virtues. Participants are encouraged to make a commitment to attend all four sessions over the course of the 2018-2019 academic year, if possible. Although this level of participation is not essential, it is the best opportunity to understand and appreciate the 12 Virtues in their entirety. Each participant will be provided with “The Twelve Virtues of a Good Teacher” by Brother Agathon (translated by noted Lasallian scholar Brother Gerard Rummery, FSC) and will be asked to read a brief essay about each Virtue prior to attending the discussion sessions.

These 12 for 21 discussion sessions are open to all faculty and staff members; however, space is limited. If you are interested in participating in all the sessions or even just one or two, please click the links to RSVP for a particular session. All 12 for 21 sessions will be hosted by the Christian Brothers in the Lower Level Lounge of La Salle House.

February 1, 2019 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Reserve – Dr. Mike Cherry, College of Business
Gentleness – Steve Zlatic, University Ministry
Zeal – Dr. Susan Sheffer, College of Arts and Sciences

April 5, 2019 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Vigilance – Dr. Susan Sheffer, College of Arts and Sciences
Generosity – Dr. George Klemic, College of Business
Prudence – Dr. Stephanie Gedzyk-Nieman, College of Nursing and Health Professions