

Promoting Collaboration & Creativity

Course example: **Holistic
Approaches to Information
Technology 2016**

Dr. Selia Karsten

The Setting

- **Holistic Approaches to Information Technology** – online for the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and the University of Toronto. (since 2002)
- I use the [Information Website](#) for the **2016 class** to demonstrate how I manage to engage learners of all levels and global locations in collaborative creativity. This 12 week course is condensed into 6 weeks.

Survey

1. Participants are sent the **information website** with a **request to complete the course survey**.
2. From surveys I determine **learning partnerships and teams** (Advanced and Super Users of technology will be mentors and team leaders).
3. A **class chart** is developed to show participant details.

Communications

- Two learning management systems are used.
- The University of Toronto uses **BlackBoard** while OISE has **Connect to Create or C2C** - the same system all graduate students use for Teaching Additional Qualifications Courses
- Planning collaborative projects use Google pages and C2C's built-in Chat application.

BlackBoard

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a BlackBoard course page. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://portal.utoronto.ca/webapps/blackboard/execute/announcement?method=search&c>. The browser's address bar also contains a search field and several icons. The browser's tab bar shows several tabs, including "Most Visited", "Getting Started", "Home : Toronto Public...", "CIBC", "astrolite.com", "Grand Prix of Figure S...", "Grocery Gateway", "Blue Mountain", and "PO : Course Schedul...".

The BlackBoard interface features a navigation menu on the left side with the following items: "Summer-2016-CTL1799H-SV-LEC6331 (SPECIAL TOPIC IN CURR-MASTER-)", "Announcements", "C2C Link", "Course Information Site", "Course Schedule", "Required Activities", "Discussion Board", "Web Links", "Tools", "Faculty Information", "Home Page", "Syllabus", "Course Materials", "My Grades", "Contacts", "Library Resources", and "About Your Course".

The main content area is titled "Announcements" and contains the following text:

Announcements

New Announcements appear directly below the repositionable bar. Reorder by dragging announcements to new positions. Move priority announcements above the repositionable bar to pin them to the top of the list and prevent new announcements from superseding them. The order shown here is the order presented to students. Students do not see the bar and cannot reorder announcements.

Below the text is a "Create Announcement" button and a "New announcements appear below this line" separator. The main announcement is titled "Welcome to CTL1799 in BlackBoard" and was posted on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 3:13:43 PM EDT. The announcement text reads:

Welcome to the BlackBoard portion of the course. To get to C2C, use the link on the left in the navigation menu. There is also a link to C2C on the Information Site for the course at <http://astrolite.com/1799>

If you have not done so yet, please fill in the survey linked from the information site and send it to me as soon as possible.

Explore BlackBoard and the options available here for you (including all of the links on the navigation panel for this course).

Most of the course work takes place in C2C. You have a few tasks to perform here in BlackBoard as follows:

Posted by: Sella Karsten
Posted to: Summer-2016-CTL1799H-SV-LEC6331
SPECIAL TOPIC IN
CURR-MASTER

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button and several open applications: 2 SeaMonkey, 7 Firefox, Inbox (2) - dka..., 2 Netscape..., 2 Windows E..., 2 Microsoft..., and Microsoft Powe... The system tray shows the time as 10:59 PM.

Connect to Create – C2C

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

C2C (CTL1799H LEC63315V 2... X

c2c.else.utoronto.ca/main.php?page=home&courseid=260587

Most Visited Getting Started Home : Toronto Public... CIBC astralite.com Grand Prix of Figure S... Grocery Gateway Blue Mountain RO - Course Schedu...

Connect to CREATE

CTL1799H LEC63315V 2016-05

my OSE Profile | Settings | Privacy | Help

C2C Home Forums Websites Engagement Search

Chat

Forum Index

Forum Title	Unread	Last Updated
Weekly Updates (Required Reading)		Aug 7, 2016 11:41 AM
Welcome!		
Getting Started		Jun 20, 2016 1:38 PM
Essentials & Expectations		Jun 20, 2016 2:14 PM
Readings		
Readings 1, 2, 3		Jul 8, 2016 2:27 PM
Reading 4		Jul 29, 2016 2:08 PM
Reading 4		Aug 7, 2016 3:07 AM
Reading 5 (for Partners)		Aug 16, 2016 2:31 PM
All-Class Discussions		
Holistic		
Approaches		Aug 5, 2016 6:47 PM
Teaching and Learning with Technology		Aug 14, 2016 11:01 AM
#1 All-Class Discussion: Information Management & Curriculum Design		
#1 All-Class Discussion: Information Management & Curriculum Design		Aug 14, 2016 11:40 PM
#2 All-Class Discussion: Communities		
#2 All-Class Discussion: Communities		Aug 14, 2016 11:32 PM

The Wall

Post to The Wall

It is easy to create your own co-edited notes if you want to keep using them for other than planning to have chats. In the upper right corner of a note that has been posted, there are three little icons: **i**, **star** and **triangle** - mouse over them and you'll see the **i** allows you to see who has read a note and the **triangle** will take you to where you can invite co-authors.

When you have invited them, you need to save the edited note and open it again to see that the authors you have selected are listed.

Blog Examples Jul 3, 2016 9:33 PM

Sella Karsten

Your first assignment in BlackBoard is to go to Tools and create a one page Blog on the subject of your choice. I've copied ten blog examples from the 2015 class into WORD documents and include them here for you. Keep in mind that the formatting in a document is not as precise as on the Web in the BlackBoard tool. Remember you can include video and audio to a blog.

[Jing - A Chinese Artist.doc](#)

[Kendal - You Are Stardust.doc](#)

[Laura - Holistic Physical Space Primary Classroom.doc](#)

[Marianne - Understanding Privilege.doc](#)

[McComb-At Home DNA Extraction.doc](#)

[Rabla - ChemistryHome.doc](#)

Start 2 SeaMon... Firefox Inbox (2) - d... 2 Netscap... 2 Window... 2 Microsof... Microsoft Po... WS_FTP... 10:57 PM

Gallery of Projects

All work is encouraged, supported discussed and given feedback from peers throughout the course...

[Gallery](#)

[Team Projects](#)

[Individual Projects](#)

[Learning Partner blended course designs](#)

The information website for this course is

<http://astralsite.com/1799>

where you can find a full description of the course.

Questions?

Please write

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