

Moodle at Swarthmore

We will be transitioning from Blackboard to Moodle over the next 2 years. Here is some more information about Moodle.

Moodle Timeline

We are here



Spring 2010	Fall 2010	Spring 2011	Summer 2011	Fall 2011	Spring 2012	Fall 2012
Moodle evaluation	Moodle pilot	Enhanced Moodle pilot	Begin migration to Moodle	Moodle in full release	Moodle in full release	Moodle only No Blackboard

- ITS and the Libraries will provide support in switching to Moodle.
- We are available to help with course design and migration from Blackboard.
- Moodle training will be available starting in November 2010.
- Consider using Moodle during the 2011-2012 school year.
- Contact Andrew Ruether from ITS (aruethe2, x8254) for more information.

About Moodle

Moodle ...

... is our new learning management system.

... will replace Blackboard over the next three semesters.

... will store your readings, assignments, surveys, videos, blogs, wikis, discussion boards, and grade book just like Blackboard.

... is open source software used at many colleges and universities.

... can provide improvements in online course design, but does take some time to learn.

How to Get Started with Moodle

- * Log in to Moodle at moodle.swarthmore.edu. Use your network username and password.
- * Some courses are open to guests. View all courses and click on one of the courses with a little face next to it to see what Moodle looks like.
- * Ask Andrew Ruether in ITS for a test course to get started adding materials.
- * Attend a Moodle training session – the first will be in November with additional sessions in early January.

Sample Moodle Course

F10 - BIOL034.01 - Evolution

You are logged in as [Andrew Ruether](#) (Logout)

[Moodle Home](#) ► [BIOL034.01.F1](#)

Activities

- Assignments
- Forums
- Quizzes
- Resources

Search Forums

Advanced search

Administration

- Enroll me in this course
- Profile

Course categories

- Fall 2010
- Test
- All courses ...

Weekly outline

- News forum
- Syllabus
- Calculating an F-statistic

August 30 - September 5

Introduction to course, evolution, and natural selection

- History of evolution outline (Sept 1, 2010)
- History of evolution slides (Wed, Sept 1 2010)
- Chapter 23 (actually, 22, but from previous edition)
- Lab: Cowpea weevil experiments
- How to maintain a laboratory notebook

September 6 - September 12

Natural selection and adaptation

- Handout (M, W, F)
- Monday slides
- Wed slides on heritability estimation
- Friday lecture slides

September 13 - September 19

Sexual selection, sex (not on first exam)

- Intrasexual selection handout
- Monday (intra sexual selection)
- Intersexual selection handout
- Intersexual selection slides
- Video showing stalk-eyed fly stalk inflation
- Exam #1 on Friday

Latest news

- 10:30 AM, Oct 21
Colin Purrington
"Flock of Dodos" questions [more...](#)
- 03:58 PM, Oct 6
Colin Purrington
Answers to mutation/selection practice problems [more...](#)
- 08:42 AM, Sep 29
Colin Purrington
Exam #2 is Oct 8 [more...](#)
- 10:57 PM, Sep 15
Colin Purrington
4 items for you biologists with time and/or initiative [more...](#)
- 09:56 PM, Sep 14
Colin Purrington
Exam #1 Friday (reminder) [more...](#)
[Older topics ...](#)

Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events

[Go to calendar...](#)
[New Event...](#)

Recent activity

Activity since Saturday, October 23
2010, 12:03 PM
[Full report of recent activity...](#)

Nice Moodle Features

- * Can switch to a student view with one mouse click
- * No more Control Panel!
- * Log into Moodle with your network username and password
- * Can upload many files and easily display them in a folder view
- * Quick and easy to create simple polls
- * Easy to copy materials from one course to another
- * Many fewer mouse clicks than Blackboard

Things About Moodle That May Take Some Getting Used To

- * Moodle has the same basic set of features as Blackboard does, but the buttons and links are different.
- * There is not a hierarchical folder structure in Moodle – all the information is displayed on the front page (although there are ways to link to other materials)
- * There is not a direct way to copy a Blackboard course to Moodle. ITS and the Libraries will help faculty with moving materials from Blackboard to Moodle, but it will take some time for faculty to organize their courses.

Why Did We Decide to Switch to Moodle?

- * Moodle is open source software so we don't have to pay licensing fees.
- * Swarthmore, Bryn Mawr, and Haverford tested Moodle against the latest version of Blackboard. There was no clear preference between Blackboard and Moodle.
- * Because Moodle is open source, it is possible to modify the software.
- * Many liberal arts schools have moved to Moodle: Williams, Colgate, Vassar, Smith, Macalester, Carleton, Reed

So, switching to Moodle will save Swarthmore money while giving us more flexibility.