Jul 28th, 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM

Canvassing Moodle - Comparing Learning Management Systems (LMS) to Canvas and Moodle

Elias L. Mokole

University of Minnesota - Duluth, elmokole@d.umn.edu
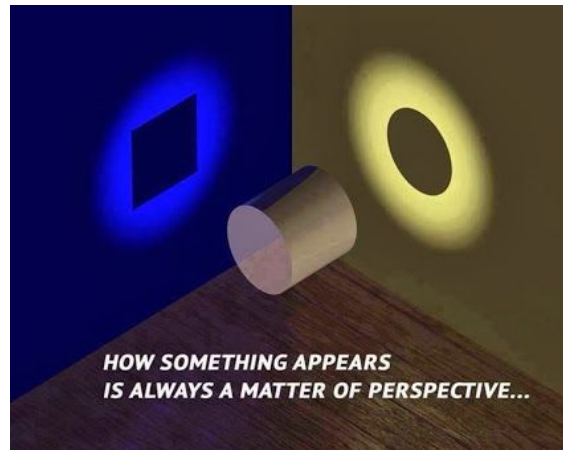
Follow this and additional works at: http://pubs.lib.umn.edu/minnesota-elearning-summit

eLearning 2016 Session -Appreciating Learning Managements Systems (LMS) Canvas and Moodle

HOW SOMETHING APPEARS IS ALWAYS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE...

Title of presentation

Canvassing Moodle- Appreciating Learning Managements Systems (LMS) Canvas and Moodle

Primary Presenter

- Elias Mokole (Instructor of Music, University of Minnesota Duluth)

Intended Audience

Higher Ed

Biography of primary presenter

Elias Mokole's gifted voice and stage presence coupled with his passion and dedication for education and the advancement of the arts allows him to share his talents and creative expertise as Instructor of Voice at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Mokole is involved nationwide in outreach initiatives for public school students and has utilized television and radio appearances as a means of highlighting his involvement with community outreach. He has received a Strategic Initiative Grant (UMD) to create a unique, interdisciplinary, project-based course taught by

faculty from Music, Theater and Art & Design. This seminar course is currently being taught to incoming freshman who are pursuing SFA majors in these disciplines. This past summer he visited France as a part of a university seed grant in collaboration with the UMD Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures. He has received further support from Minnesota State Imagine Grant Award and was just awarded a 2016 Instructional Development Small Grant to participate in the KAOSPILOT teaching initiatives program. Future plans include travel to France and Germany for continued work on the Marc Berthomieu setting of Jardins de Paris for developing a lecture/recital performance of this unknown work.

Name and bio of co-presenter

● Helen Mongan-Rallis (Associate Professor of Education, UMD)

Helen Mongan-Rallis is an Associate Professor in the Education Department at the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) and a University of Minnesota Distinguished Teaching Professor. She teaches courses to pre-service teachers in elementary, early childhood, secondary and special education on teaching with technology. Her teaching and research expertise are in the areas educational technology, teaching online and hybrid courses, distance education, multicultural education and intercultural competence.

Three learning outcomes, objectives or "take-aways"

Sharing journey experiences about the benefits of being a part of a pilot where educators can woodshed ideas about learning management systems in a group environment.

Examining the use of Moodle and Canvas learning management systems, and how they influence the way we teach.

Reconnecting with new ways of doing things and realizing that LMS may come and go, but it's how we use them as a tool to enhance student learning

Presenter's website, Twitter blog site or LinkedIn site

@elmokole
https://www.linkedin.com/in/eliasmokole

Session overview: Why Canvas and Moodle?

Context: As part of the University of Minnesota's ongoing mission to review and evaluate emerging instructional technology, several educators were selected across the University of Minnesota to participate in a pilot program to assess Canvas as a learning management system (instead of Moodle, which is the current LMS used on UM campuses).   Over the past several months pilot participants have been using Canvas to connect and share strategies on how to best use this powerful tool. Presenters will discuss learning management systems (Moodle and Canvas) as they relate to teaching online, hybrid, and flipped learning class sessions. Presentation will allow time for discussion.

We will also examine the pilot experience as a community of practice from a participant perspective -- an environment to refine, develop, improve to make copies; to learn from each other, cross disciplinary, and to evaluate emerging instructional technology.

Select students, faculty and staff will participate in several pilot testing rounds during 2015-17.

UMN 2016-17 Canvas Pilot Timeline

- April: Extension of Canvas pilot approved by Provost, OIT-CIO, University Librarian
- May 4: Fall 2016 Canvas pilot applications due
- Mid-May: Pilot participants chosen
- May-August: Build courses; participate in faculty development
- September-December: Faculty and students use Canvas with ongoing support; evaluations conducted
- October: Call for Spring 2017 participants (additional details forthcoming)
- February 2017: Final report delivered to project sponsors
- April 2017: Learning Management System recommendation finalized

Sharing journey experiences about the benefits of being a part of a pilot where educators can woodshed ideas about learning management systems in a group environment.

"Dating" your LMS system

The presentation won't really be about strictly comparing the two systems but equally about what we find useful as it relates to our long-term goals regarding student learning and engagement.

I'd like you to indulge me for a second as we think about this as if we are "dating" our LMS system.

Often we are not given a choice about which system our institution uses. One might compare it to an arranged marriage or relationship.

Relationships can be overwhelming at first – so many unknowns.

A new LMS comes to town!

Several thoughts may cross our mind...
- Fear of the unknown – Who are you? Why are you here?
- Do you think you're better than my current relationship?
- Are you trying to break us up?
- Who do you think you are? What I have been doing works well for me.
- Are you here today and then gone tomorrow?

Perhaps, one is very unhappy in the current relationship ...
- You're so much better....
- You're different...and that's exciting...
- My last LMS never treated me like this...

A confession

In my case, I have a confession to make.... I've been two timing..

I've been simultaneously teaching two different courses; using Canvas for one and Moodle for the other.

So... in the spirit of appreciating our current relationship/system, how might you answer the following:

- What is your primary purpose and using an LMS?

- How might you use it to enhance student learning and engagement?
- What would you say works best for you, based on your particular use of an LMS?
- What do you appreciate most about your current LMS?
- What in your current LMS is a thing of beauty?

<u>Final thoughts</u>

When looking over the recent Canvas pilot feedback observations, many of the instructor comments are about frustrations making one system to do the exact same task as the system currently used for the course.

One thing that is consistent in our world today is change – the system tools we use for entering grades, sending emails, entering information for research or promotion, are ever changing and we must adapt.

Perhaps this experience gives us a shared perspective with students who are passing through our courses. Often they are required to adapt to new or modified systems depending on their instructors. Some systems are flexible and others less so, depending upon who is using them and for what purpose.

I don't work for Canvas.
I don't work for Moodle.
I work for the students I am privileged to serve...

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Happy to serve,
Elias