



NEWSLETTER

DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM

What's new and exciting for Fall 2015?

New Learning Management System?

ELAC currently supports two learning management systems, Etudes, the official LMS for online & hybrid courses, and Moodle, the LMS used for web-enhanced courses. Next year, ELAC will adopt a new LMS called Canvas and this new LMS will replace both of our current systems. The Distance Education Program will develop Canvas training during the Spring 2016 semester for faculty so that they can become certified to teach using Canvas.

Moodle News

ELAC is currently using Moodle version 2.7 and there are no plans to upgrade to any newer version at this time.

New Features in Etudes

- Auto Late Penalty - Ability to Deduct Points for All Late Work At Once. This new feature has been implemented in Discussions and in Assignments, Tests, and Surveys, under global grading options. It allows you to deduct points to all students with 'late' submissions with one click.

- Ability to Remove Time Limit for Visually-Impaired Students in all Tests at Once - To further accommodate the needs of visually-impaired students,

Etudes now includes an additional setting under global special access that allows you to remove the time limit from all timed assessments for a specific student. The problem is that blind students can't focus on listening to and answering the questions that are being read by screen reader software, like JAWS, when a timer counts down over the questions that are being read to them. It's extremely confusing. With this new feature, you can now remove the time limit for blind learners.

- Ability to record 'notes' about students in the grade book

This feature allows instructors to jot down notes on individual students (i.e. "Mary needs extra help; gave her 3 excuses thus far; suspect cheating on mid-term" and the like). The 'notes' are not visible to students. Click on the notes icon by a student's name to enter notes for him or her. You can see if you've added notes for a student as the icon changes slightly to indicate content (text). Access to view, edit, or add "notes" for a student is conveniently available in ALL grade book views where you see student names. In the individual student page, a link to notes is at the menu. A date stamp and

the name of the instructor who added or updated the notes last is shown.

- Ability to send Private Messages to students directly from the grade book - As you review students' performance in the grade book, you may need to send them a private message (PM) to praise them on their work or to alert them for missing work. You now have the ability to send Private Messages to students from every page in the grade book: detailed assessment view, itemized grades, overall grades, and the individual student views. Just click on the mail icon to the right of a student's name and send them a private message.

TECHFEST 2015



TechFest is an ongoing series of instructional training workshops on a variety of topics, designed for both faculty and staff. For more information, please check out the TechFest Flyer below for an up-to-date list of available training sessions.