Designing for Mobile
Thursday, March 21, 12:30 – 1:30 pm ET
O129

Description/Objectives
In this session, we’ll compare the student experience of using Blackboard from a web browser to the experience of accessing coursework from a mobile browser. We’ll identify a few key principles to keep in mind for making elements in your course “mobile-friendly” and practice building these elements together.

By the end of the session, you should have a better sense of what your students see, depending on what device or app they use, and how to improve their mobile access to your course so that they can stay current from wherever they are.

If you have a tablet or a smartphone, please bring it to the session, but a mobile device is not needed to participate.

Topics/Tasks
1) Introduce basic principles of mobile design (10 min)
   a) Ask who and what.
   b) Add content using the Text Editor or PDF Files
   c) Add multimedia via YouTube, iTunes U, or as a MP3/MP4
   d) Use descriptive titles
   e) Organize content in folders
   f) Communicate expectations

Note that using a mobile browser is not technically supported by Blackboard so all features are not guaranteed to work.

2) Using the demo Blackboard course, participants will volunteer to try one of these tasks: (10-15 min)
   a) Add your syllabus as a PDF file
   b) Add a link to an online news or journal article
   c) Add a link to a YouTube video (you can try embedding the video as well)
   d) Enter a grade and feedback for your test student
   e) Build a short mobile quiz (1 or 2 questions)
   f) Contribute to the sample discussion forum in the course
3) Show how to log in as their test student on a mobile device, if they have one.

4) Review examples together as a whole group. Compare the mobile browser view to the Blackboard mobile app view. (20 min)
   a) View syllabus as a PDF file
   b) View link to an online news or journal article
   c) View link to a YouTube video (you can try embedding the video as well)
   d) Take a short mobile quiz (1 or 2 questions)
   e) Review My Grades and feedback
   f) Review and contribute to the sample discussion forum in the course
   g) Review and post an announcement to show that it can be done on the go

5) Revisit basic principles.

6) If time, explore another option for using mobile devices: Using Poll Everywhere to get instant session feedback.