

## Blackboard Update – October 2014 Version

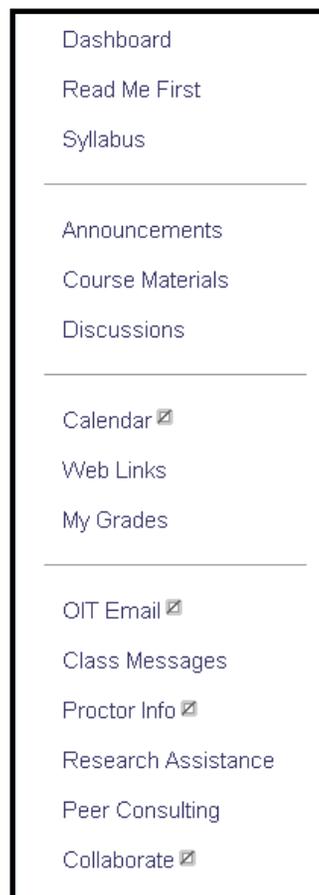
In September 2015, Oregon Tech Online updated the Blackboard program that we use to a new version. This version is called October 2014. Here is what has changed.

### New Look

The class banner changed on Dashboard page. It will now look similar to this one.



The menu items listed on the left side of your class are now in a list instead of buttons.

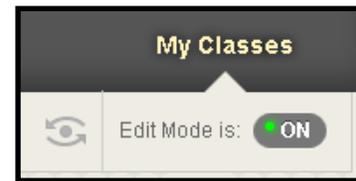


Colors and fonts are slightly different on the whole page, the “My Classes” tab at the top is on the right side instead of the left side and the log out icon has changed.



**Warning:** the action icons (like those down-pointing arrow buttons at the end of items and the x in some boxes) are now hidden until you move your cursor over the area where they used to display.

You also still have to be sure you have “Edit Mode” turned on before you can see these options when scrolling around the page.

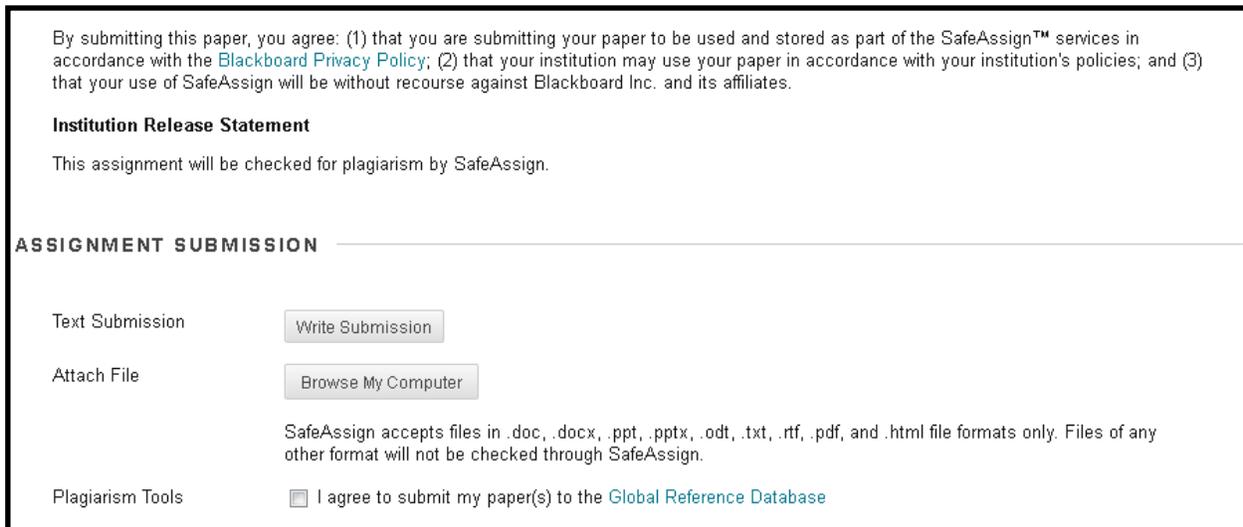


**Collaborate**— uses a launcher method to open, which will look slightly different than how it looked when you opened a session previously. You will automatically see the launcher option the first time you use Collaborate.

### Safe Assign

The reports you get will look a little different. Some of the options have also changed such as the email option has been removed but you can “print to pdf.”

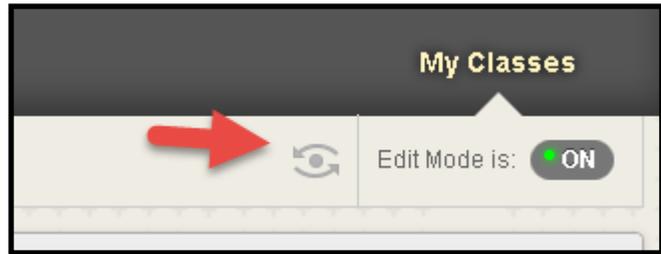
Here is the warning students see when they open an assignment that has SafeAssign enabled:



**My Grades** – looks about the same for students. The only thing new is there is an icon now to click for viewing feedback  instead of having the feedback displayed right on the page.

## New ways to do tasks

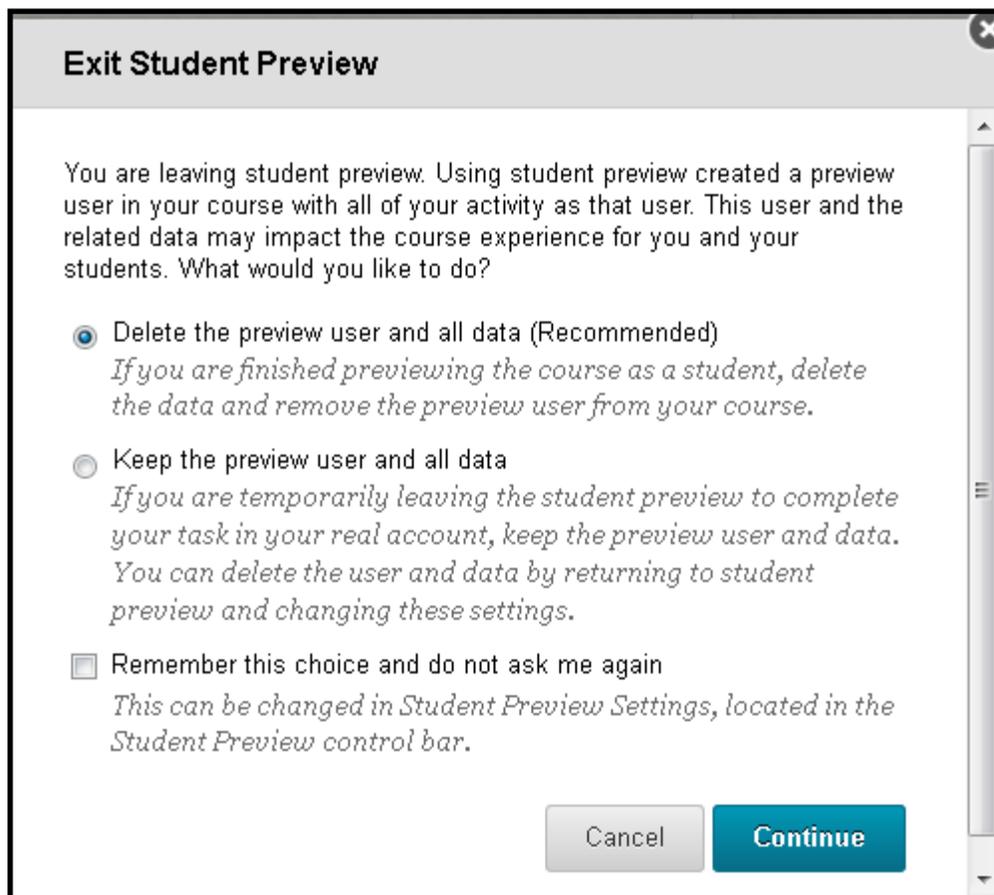
**Student preview** is now included as an option in every class, so you don't have to add a demo student to try stuff as a student. Look for this icon at the top of your class .



After selecting to exit the preview mode,



you will be given an option to save the fake student's work or delete it. If you're working with the Grade Center to verify that your formulas work, you would want to save the work. If you were just checking how a test looked to a student, you probably will want to delete the fake student's work each time.



**Content boxes**—When typing in content boxes inside of Blackboard, the spell checker is turned on by default. Cut and paste works better when copying material between classes.



**Safe assign** is now an option inside of a regular assignment - not a separate tool. Because the Safe assign option is part of a regular assignment, you can now also use a rubric while using Safe assign also. When you create an assignment, click the “Submission Details” link to see the Safe Assign option.

#### GRADING

✱ Points Possible

Associated Rubrics

Name	Type	Date Last Edited	Show Rubric to Students
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[Submission Details](#) 

[Grading Options](#)

[Display of Grades](#)

#### Submission Details

*If any students are enrolled in more than one group receiving the same assignment they will submit more than one attempt for this assignment. It may be necessary to provide these students with an overall grade for the assignment.*

Assignment Type  Individual Submission  
 Group Submission

Number of Attempts

Plagiarism Tools  Check submissions for plagiarism using SafeAssign

*SafeAssign only supports English-language submissions. See [Blackboard Help](#) for more details. If SafeAssign is enabled with Anonymous Grading, SafeAssign Originality Reports will be hidden from Instructors until Anonymous Grading is disabled. However, Students may still be able to see SafeAssign Originality Reports depending on the state of the "Allow students to view SafeAssign originality report for their attempts" setting.*

Allow students to view SafeAssign originality report for their attempts

Exclude submissions from the Institutional and Global References Databases

The Collaborate tool has two additional rooms that are automatically set up for you – a Course Room, which has the name of the class and a My Room, which has the Instructor’s name on it. You still have the Schedule a Session button.

The screenshot displays the Blackboard Collaborate interface. At the top, the title "Blackboard Collaborate" is shown. Below this, there are three main sections:

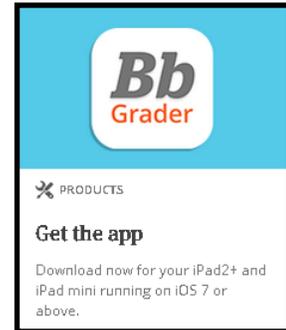
- MATH 100 Room:** Includes a "Join Room" button and links for "Edit Room", "Add Link to Course", and "Invite Guests".
- Janelle Knaggs's Room:** Includes a "Join Room" button and links for "Edit Room", "Add Link", and "Invite Guests".
- Schedule a Session:** Includes a "Create Session" button and a "Set Defaults" link.

Below these sections, there are two tabs: "SCHEDULED SESSIONS" (selected) and "RECORDINGS". Under "SCHEDULED SESSIONS", there is a search bar and a date range filter. The search bar is empty. The date range is set from "Start Date 09/14/2015" to "End Date 09/20/2015", with a "Go" button to the right. At the bottom of the interface, a message states: "No sessions are available in the selected timeframe."

- The Course Room is always available in your class for you or your students to use and lasts for the duration of the class. Each class has its own Course Room that can't be seen by other classes.
- The My Room follows you across all your classes and lasts for as long as you have a Blackboard account. You can use this room for things like hosting Office Hours that would be available for all of your active classes. If multiple instructors are assigned to a class, each of their "My Room" buttons will be included in the class.
- You can still set up sessions for particular days also that have a session name, have a specific time to access and can be recorded.

## New Apps

- ❖ Two new mobile apps are available- one for students called Bb Student and one for instructors labeled Bb Grader. The Bb Grader app only allows you to grade assignments at this time and is only available on iPhones/iPads. The Bb Student app is hard for some people to locate in the Apple store.



- ❖ Blackboard is still working on adding more features to these both of these new apps.
- ❖ You can also still use the old Blackboard mobile app or open a browser, such as Firefox, on your mobile device to login and get the full feature set of Blackboard.

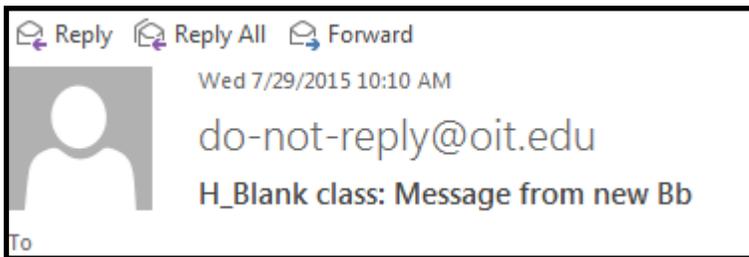


## What you should do now

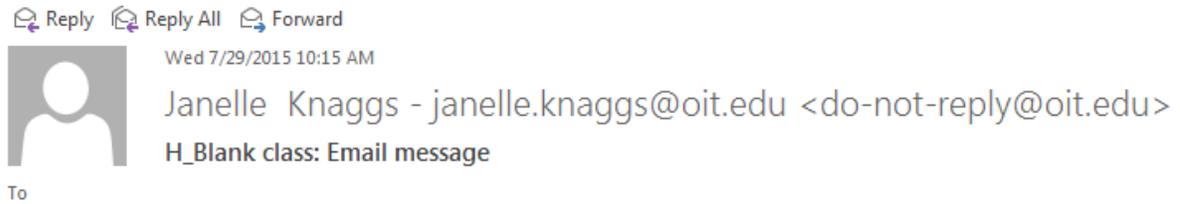
- ❖ Check that there aren't any problems in your class. Pay particular attention to videos you created, YouTube videos you link to, external website links and any tests you have in your classes.
- ❖ Update any material you have in your class that is outdated, such as directions that say "using the buttons on the left..." needs to be changed to "using the links on the left."
- ❖ Look around your class and be sure you understand how to do tasks that work slightly different now.

See the next page for a known issue with emails sent through the announcement tool.

**WARNING:** Emails that are sent as an option from an Announcement you create will come from a generic address (do-not-reply@oit.edu). (See image below.) If a student replies to that email message, the reply WILL go to your Oregon Tech email account though. (The student will see your name in the To field right after clicking the Reply button in his/her email account.) This is a known issue that Blackboard will fix at some point.



If you use the Email tool in Blackboard instead of the Announcement tool, your name will be listed as the sender. It will look like the below example. Note that it still has the do-not-reply address listed but it also has the sender's email address listed first.



This came from Bb but from the Email tool not from the Announcement tool.