



HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Information Technology

Canvas Migration Evaluation

Spring 2015

Call-Out Quotes from Teaching Staff

Easy

and

intuitive

LMS to work and
use

I always asked for one volunteer (who's name I noted for participation) to make at least one post related to the readings on the discussion board. It was a complete success.

**It was a
complete
success.**

Our course discussion board was well used each and every week, which had not been my experience prior to this course.

Speed
Grader
really

**saved
grading
time.**

We had 20 students in the classroom taking the course live, approximately 50 students watching the video live on campus and participating in the real-time chat room with the TA, and an additional 15 students watching the recorded class video on Canvas and participating in the discussion board. It sounds crazy, but Canvas made it happen, and the course has been great.

After a short
learning
curve,

we became
Canvas
fans quickly

Canvas made grading
weekly labs

**faster and more
efficient.**

I assigned a selfie assignment
after a museum field trip.

**Submitting the
student selfies
and write-ups
worked very
well,**

easy to see and grade with
comments.

Having the ability
to

easily

create quiz,
projects,
assignments and
grade all from a
single point is

very
helpful

Canvas
was very
helpful in
juggling two
courses at
one time

Everything was
separate and
much easier to
keep track of than
having everything
(communication,
assignments,
etc.) flooding my
email at once.

**It is a good
course
management
tool.**

It is a great tool to communicate with the students, keep course materials up to date, and share course-related materials.

By using the announcements and messenger features in Canvas,

I keep all of my student correspondence organized.

Student emails no longer get lost in the bottom of my in-box.

The most useful feature of Canvas for my course was the ability to assign students to groups (not official sections) and have special areas restricted to members of the group (and the teaching team) where students in the group could share files, discuss, etc. This really

facilitated group work

in a web-conference course.

Canvas has really allowed me to have much better course management on the Harvard platform - it's been very helpful.

Grading quizzes and assignments has been so much easier on Canvas.

Canvas
definitely
made grading

**easy and
convenient**

The single best aspect of Canvas for this course was the threaded discussion feature.

For instance, at the beginning of the course, we set up a threaded for each week on the IT news of the week, asking students to respond to emerging security news, etc. with their own responses. The response was overwhelming. Initially, I had planned to select a few articles, post them, and solicit student responses. Instead, students began introducing a wide range of their own reading, engaging in healthy debate on scores of key IT topics.

This gave the course an immediacy that was comparable to that of an in-person class. It was simply not as intuitive in iSites, making students much more willing to engage in debates, post their own topics, and engage with each other even though they weren't face-to-face. It was in some ways more conducive to every student being heard than in-person discussion can sometimes be, as it's impossible to lurk at the back of a class.

It really encouraged everyone to connect coursework with current applications beyond their own areas of expertise.

It was

easy

to track attendance and
assignments.

The virtual
classroom
and live chat
were

**spectacular
resources**

I had no experience with Canvas, or any training, workshops, etc. I was able to learn this on my own, while using the program, and grading student assignments.

It was a user-friendly program!

I appreciate that students can always see their grades!

Students can remain pro-active in their own grading experience

with communication with the instructors.

Ability to

post students
grades for
them to see
online

Is helpful, particularly with
final exam scores and final
course grades.

This platform certainly

**stimulated
my creativity
and
imagination**

while teaching my
course.

I especially like it
for

correcting student
papers.

I use all of the
functions in this
regard. I also like
it as a

depository of
readings and
videos for
students.

Canvas' Speed Grader

feature has been one of the highlights of my transition to Canvas - it truly lives up to its name. With over 350 students in the courses I'm involved with, managing the assignments is a tall order. Using the "Grade by Question" feature I can quickly flip through the responses to a particular question *for every student in the course.* When I'm finished reviewing a particular student's response, I can enter their point total (Canvas takes care of tabulating their total score for the assignment), leave a text or even audio comment, and move onto the next student's response to that same question - no scrolling or opening a new document required. Canvas completely eliminates the "overhead" work associated with grading (collecting submissions, tabulating scores, returning assignments). Finally, if a student has a comment about a particular question or score – I can pull up their response in seconds and respond directly in Canvas.

It
absolutely
couldn't
be easier.

**I much
prefer**

online grading
with Canvas to
offline grading.

I'd have to say the Canvas SpeedGrader has truly enhanced my experience. That alone has been a hugely

(as in tectonic shift)

positive experience for me.

Canvas has
made collecting
and grading
assignments as

**easy as
pie!**

One of the best experiences with Canvas was using SpeedGrader to make comments and corrections to a particular assignment, and then receiving students' replies to my comments. We could go back and forth and talk about improvements without sending emails back and forth. This is not a specific story, but

using Canvas has allowed me to get feedback to students more quickly

which is especially helpful for language classes that meet every day.

**The inbox
was
helpful.**

I enjoy Canvas for its grading functionality and course messaging service. These functions have helped to

**save me
significant
amounts of
time**

over the course of two semesters of use.

I am a visiting faculty member with a one-year appointment, and had to learn a new software package in any event. Canvas was extremely helpful by providing a

great deal of flexibility

with readings and other resources that could be posted to the syllabus, scheduling individual meetings with students, keeping track of grades, watching student interest during registration, and learning student identities. It was not always intuitive and I needed help at various points, but went to

Canvas office hours and found them very helpful.

**Communication
and availability
to students**

The quizzes,
exams, and
grading features
are

**far superior on
Canvas
compared to
iSites.**

Canvas allowed me to flip course material out of class time. I also believed it allowed me to

engage students more effectively

before they came to class, to

bring the topic of the session to life

for them ahead of time.

**Email was
good.**

I found the Canvas
interface

**easy to
use**

to communicate directly
to the whole class.

The course is based on students reading journal articles. It's very easy to post these articles, assignments related to the readings, and organize it all. We used to print all this out, so

**we're saving
a lot of
paper!**

**Great for grading
and submission of
assignments!**

The Canvas
SpeedGrader has
made it feasible
for a large course
team to

**evaluate long
student
assignments
quickly.**

I think there's a lot of potential
in the

**chat and
discussion**

features and the other many
modules and applications.

Canvas has been particularly helpful for

submitting assignment comments and grades

since it enables commenting directly in a PDF for a large class without needing to deal with the logistics of returning those PDFs to students.

The capability
to post videos
was a

**big
plus.**

My favorite
feature of
Canvas is the
SpeedGrader

I was a grader for two assignments for this course in 2014, and that process took a long time. With Canvas, students were able to submit their homework directly to the web site and it kept track of everything for me. From there, I could create a rubric for each assignment, which made grading a snap - simply click a button for full credit or no credit, you could enter in partial credit and leave feedback on the assignment.

The students received their grades right away, and it was much less of a headache for me.