

# Canvas is awesome.

Student and teaching staff quotes from fall 2015 survey

# **Student Comments**

It is the best course system I have ever  
used.

I really love how useful, convenient, and versatile this software is. I can email, submit assignments, access calendars and related work material all in one place. Super easy to navigate too!

Overall, Canvas is a great improvement  
over iSites.

I think it is a fantastic product. I have used Blackboard in the past and there is no comparison for me.

It's an excellent platform to read, share views or documents, discuss, work on useful modules. It's very interactive.

I think Canvas is convenient, sensible and environmentally responsible. It is also easy to adapt to and navigate.



I prefer to use Canvas on my phone.

So easy to use and well-designed!

Really works well and fantastic to  
navigate!

Way better than iSites.

Overall, Canvas is a great improvement.

I have been incredibly impressed by  
Canvas. Incredibly superior to last year's  
course pages.

I love how the instructor can choose assignments where we can see / share in just our own teams or in other teams as well when needed.

Canvas seems to be the best online  
academy / college interface.



Love it!

All the topics dealt in the Canvas were highly relevant, and I had a great learning experience.

The Canvas app is awesome!

Canvas platform is an excellent tool to navigate and have access to course material.

I found Canvas compared well with some other platforms I've used in earlier courses.

Love Canvas!

App is also useful and nice to have.

Teaching teams for my various classes  
have done a great job of keeping things  
organized.



Find it to be a super useful platform as compared to my undergrad institution's online learning platform.

Canvas has been so much easier than previous systems, and I love having everything in one place.

I love how I can see the mean, highest, and lowest score of my math problem sets on the course website.

I love that Google+ is integrated -- great posting /sharing /collaborating easily.

I like the homework assignment option on the right hand side of the page, helpful in keeping track of what needs to be done.

I like the profile section so I can get to know people in online classes.  
Discussion is set up in a familiar and simple way.

The course assignments and upcoming events were well-organized.

Announcements are useful in keeping up to date.



The comments on assignments are very helpful.

Having all the course materials in the  
Modules section is great.

Canvas is an exceptional system that makes communication easy between my classmates, my teachers, and me.

The announcements are helpful.

I found the *Assignment* section easy to  
use.

Announcements to whole class works  
very well.

I like the assignments due feature with checks when completed.

It's very straightforward, which I  
appreciate.



I find online classes that have an active chat session enhance the class. ...  
Very convenient to contact people on Canvas.

Was good to be able to submit all assignments online.

The calendar and office hours sign-up is helpful.

Pages are helpful if well-organized by  
the professor.

I like that announcements are pushed  
through to my email.

Most of the core classes use the platform to send course-related messages, which makes it easy to search for announcements after the emails are sent.

I really like the "people" part, where I can see who's in class and familiarize myself with my classmates.

The reserves list has been very helpful!



Anything that automatically came to my  
email was very easy to use.

The look and feel of Canvas is much better than iSites, and having everything for all my courses in one place is really helpful....Canvas objectively seems much better, more functional, and easier to use.

To start with I was little apprehensive about the functionality and how I would remain connected and motivated with this medium, but to my delight it was an amazing experience overall and made me connect with so many people and their views.

This online course system allowed all the participants to post and discuss with any group. This really enriched the discussions and we learned from each other.

Liked that Lecture Capture was available. Well integrated.

I like the Canvas app, which is very user-friendly.

The week-to-week construction and navigation are good. I like that one can see what readings / assignments are selected for the given week without having to go to the syllabus.

I like the functionality of Canvas compared to most other LMS systems, particularly better than let's say Blackboard.



Very intuitive and easy to use.

Personally I love the Canvas app. I wish  
all courses used it optimally for the  
students' benefit.

Overall it's pretty intuitive.

It's a good system.

The grades feature and assignments are especially useful.

# Teaching Staff Comments

The assignment functions are especially valuable. Without them, we would receive upwards of 400 (often unstapled, or unnamed) paper assignments a week, distributed between four people, which is otherwise a logistical nightmare.

Announcements and Discussions have become my (and my students') best friends this semester. I love the fact that the Announcements create a permanent archive of important information (no more "I lost the e-mail where you gave the details on the midterm.") and you embed pictures and links.



In a class of 150 students, Discussions (properly structured) have cut our e-mail traffic by 90% by helping us answer questions once for all to see. Students get their answers faster (rather than e-mailing us and waiting they can check the board) and they all benefit from a shared resource.

Posting assignments, lecture notes,  
problem sets, and solutions has been  
**EXTREMELY** easy, and this is excellent.

Great way to post assignments and due dates so we are certain that everyone is getting the same information at the same time.

Sending out announcements is much easier than the old way.

Doing a flipped classroom, it's great to be able to have the students watch videos and complete quizzes. It also makes sure the meet certain requirements before progressing, and allows us to track if students are understanding/what they are confused by.

Assignment function is quite valuable and saves huge amounts of time, paper and effort in grading.

Chat function is great where more than half of our students in this course are remote.

The BigBlueButton tool has been great to provide for small conferences as well as a makeup class when there was a school holiday. It's slick and nice to be able to record.



I liked the connection between the Canvas calendar and Google calendar.

At the beginning of the semester, I transferred all the Canvas dates to my Google calendar in one fell swoop, saving much inputting of information.

The first assignment in the semester made use of a Canvas form to allow students to interact with Google maps in a really cool way. That was great.

Canvas had been very helpful to communicate with the students and stay alert of their needs. I consider it an important tool for my courses.

Modules, assignments, quizzes, announcements, grading have all been very valuable within Canvas.

It was also easy to move content from a previous course into my course for this term.

Canvas is big step forward, and it has  
been great.

Canvas is a great way to consolidate information for a course. All of the assignments, readings, and lecture materials are available for the students, while all of the submitted assignments and grades are present for the teaching staff. Everything is very organized.

Having students upload their assignments there has worked well for me - it's helpful that assignments submitted late are marked late.



I use and enjoy the "speed grader" function for short assignments like Response Papers - I can quickly comment on the assignment (one global comment) and mark it as complete or incomplete.

The most difference that Canvas has made (compared to iSites in the past) has been the relative ease of updating content on any page, as well as uploading files: both processes have been very smooth and fast, and has been a real pleasure.

Being able to track students' usage of various pages on the site has been insightful.

It's a great tool that consolidates a lot of what faculty need into one interface.

If you are comparing it to iSites it blows it  
out of the water.

Canvas is beautiful visually and well-organized and has a great support team.

Everything is in one place. We no longer have to keep a separate set of records, which greatly reduces mistakes and other problems. It's been wonderful!

It is simple and easy to use. I have used iSites and Blackboard in the past, and I very much prefer Canvas.



It is a wonderful program, beautifully designed to suit the course's needs. Very easy to navigate and publish course materials for smooth student access.

Canvas is so much better in: usability,  
design options; creating a dynamic,  
beautiful website -- than iSites! Thank  
you!

The interface is pretty intuitive; I never attended any training sessions and yet was able to figure out how to upload files and create a "Page", etc.

It is especially visually pleasing and has an intuitive navigation function. It is easy to organize course files and offer resources to students.

More flexibility and features than iSites.

Discussion boards have been very useful to create a sense of community for non-local students.

Grading with the Canvas grading feature has been useful in that it's eliminated the tedious issues related to getting and sending back homework sets.

The discussion pages are very helpful  
and the Speed Grader is a huge  
improvement on iSites.



Threaded discussions have stimulated students to stay engaged with reading material slightly better than they otherwise would have. Seeing that somebody else in the course is thinking about the same topics is encouraging for them.

The ability to use a significant subset of TeX in Discussions has been wonderful. In a proof-heavy math class it is next to impossible to express oneself clearly without considerable use of mathematical notation, so giving the students and instructors the ability to directly communicate using mathematical notation is invaluable.

It's great to have an interactive syllabus. Granted, it took a long time to set up and has to be tweaked each semester, but it's great to have when it is complete. I find myself referring to it and reuploading materials I've uploaded for one reason or another.

I've used the discussion boards weekly and find they're a great way to have the students interact and think about the material outside of the lecture. I request a "volunteer" to put up a topic of their choice related to the readings each week. It works out great.

In general, Canvas is a helpful tool in that enables course information and materials to be housed in a central location and facilitates the sharing of that information with all stakeholders.

The gradebook as part of the course site has been valuable in allowing my co-teacher and I to centralize our grading within the site, as opposed to needing to use Google Drive or Dropbox. Having the grades entered in the site is also convenient for immediately communicating grades to students.

The fact that we can use the Blue Button to invite our students to an online conference has improved the process of having section meetings. This also helps in case of emergencies such as a snow day cancellations or traveling conflicts. However, this is a tool that is rarely used by most of my friends in the faculty, so they should know about it and we should have a deeper conversation about how to use it.

Gradebook. Assignments. Discussion.  
Readings. These are the four pillars of  
Canvas for any TF.



This year using canvas we were able to efficiently and precisely have canvas set up a 3 hour exam for everyone within a 24 hour window. It was much easier and accurate [than the old way].

Handing in of homeworks, grade posting,  
posting class handouts and notices,  
emailing the class, nice flexible front  
page for how you want students to view  
the material through the semester.

The ability to assign different deadlines to groups is valuable. We have weekly online discussions. Each week one group post their reactions to the readings and the other group respond. The groups alternate in the following week. This way, students are able to view each other's opinions on the readings, and they can also interact with fellow students.

**The email function is extremely useful as I  
can contact the whole class.**

**The gradebook is very useful as I don't have to use a separate Excel sheet.**

**I like the interactive syllabus and the fact that you can download all students assignments for the week with one click.**

**The modules have been a great help for teachers to offer guidance to students for the preparations of their schoolwork.**

The grade system can directly help students view their scores and some statistics about the overall / average scores, both for themselves and for the whole classes.



The most valuable function in Canvas is "Pages." It's amazing that you can decorate the page, add videos, and upload course readings immediately. When we had guest speakers, they usually come to class with extra material for students. It was amazing that we can scan the documents and upload them to course page. Moreover, the Page feature helps you stay organized and updated so students can get the best experience in the class.

Rubrics -- huge, awesome, great.

Inline comments in student papers --  
awesome.

Setting up groups -- great.

SpeedGrader was especially valuable for assignment grading. I used the Rubric feature to set up rubrics for assignments that provided a uniform way for TA to grade assignments and communicate feedback. Students really liked having rubrics as well, as it gave them a checklist of areas to cover and the point score for each area.

SpeedGrader also worked well for group assignments, where assignment feedback could be shared with the entire group.

SpeedGrader is a **game changer**. No more error-prone complicated spreadsheets for TA's.

Assignments' comments have been very useful to communicate directly with students on assignments in a way that keeps the student's progress in the course organized.

I like Speedgrader. It's efficient and sufficiently flexible. And it's nice to have all the papers and comments centralized and accessible when you're teaching for a course with multiple sections.

Speedgrader and the Gradebook (and their integration) **saves me hours** every week.



Speedgrader is a very useful feature in making comments, returning assignments and then automatically adding grades to the gradebook.

In general, the software is very helpful with the options it provides for setting up assignments, and in automatically marking those assignments on a calendar.

The tutorials available on the site that explain how to use Canvas are generally clear and helpful.

Overall, I've been very happy with the  
Canvas platform.

I like providing feedback on assignments on Canvas. Also, it's easy to enter grades.

I like the Mute assignment feature. It's easy to use, which is nice especially since not having privacy during grading was one of my first concerns regarding grading on Canvas.

It has been a valuable scaffold for clearly defining the course. Students always have an updated, clear reference of class activities and assignments, and their standing in the course. They can use it to reference anything we have covered, from any point in the class. When they have a question on what they should be doing or what happened in class three weeks ago, the Canvas site should be their first stop.

I LOVE the linkage with other social media.



I found that Canvas was very well organized.  
I knew what was in the Files section,  
Assignment section, etc.