



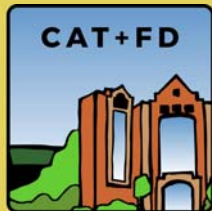
CUSTOMIZE YOUR COURSE HOMEPAGE IN BRIGHTSPACE

Janice Florent, Technology Coordinator



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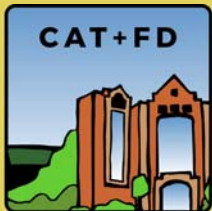
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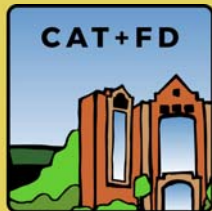
Workshop Slides

<https://catwiki.xula.edu/homepages>



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Hi Janice, Welcome to Elementary French (Spring 2021)!

Announcements ▾

Bonne chance avec les examens! Don't forget your written French final!



Bonjour Janice!

Good luck with your finals!

[Don't forget to take your written French final by Friday, May 3 at 3pm.](#)

All other grades have been posted.

Radio France Internationale Twitter ▾

Tweets by @RFI



RFI
@RFI

Coupe du monde 2022: la Côte d'Ivoire bat le Malawi et reste en pole rfi.my/7ows.t



13m

RFI Musique ▾

Tweets by @RFIMusique



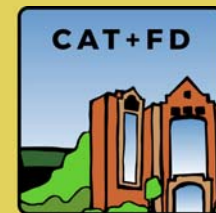
RFI Musique
@RFIMusique

🇫🇷 Le nom de l'album est encore gardé secret, mais on sait déjà qu'il sera composé de 10 titres... Le roi du #mbalax Youssou N'Dour annonce la sortie d'un nouvel album pour le 12 novembre ! 📺 via [@RFIAfrique rfi.my/7ohp](https://rfi.my/7ohp)



Sénégal: le roi du mbalax Youssou N'Dour v...

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Homepages

Homepage



Created by Gregor Cresnar
from Noun Project

Purpose: The landing page for courses. Similar to a bulletin board where you can display useful information and resources for learners.

NavBar



Created by Smalllike
from Noun Project

Purpose: Easy way for you and your learners to access a wide variety of tools.

Course Banner



Created by AlbertWinkler
from Noun Project

Purpose: Space to personalize your course image or display a message or information to learners.

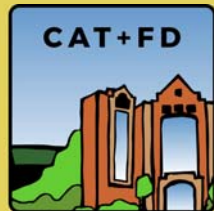
Content



Created by Faizan Adima
from Noun Project

Purpose: A space to post and organize content within Brightspace. Create lessons, assignments, quizzes, etc. in an easy to navigate area for learners.

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Course Offering Information

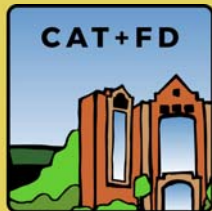
- Change the name of your course



Image credit: "new_name" by jflorent is dedicated to public domain under [CC0](#) and is a derivative of [image](#) by Gerd Altmann from [Pixabay](#)

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Banner Image

- Choose from image library or upload your own
- Images are used in
 - My Courses Widget
 - Course Homepage image banner
 - Brightspace Pulse
- Automatically resized
 - Recommended size 2400 by 960 pixels

Banner Image Text

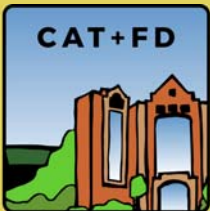
- Customize text on homepage banner images
 - Course Name
 - Custom Value
 - Replace Strings allowed
 - For example, Hello {FirstName}, Welcome to {OrgUnitName}!
 - None

Homepage Layout

- The organization of the homepage.



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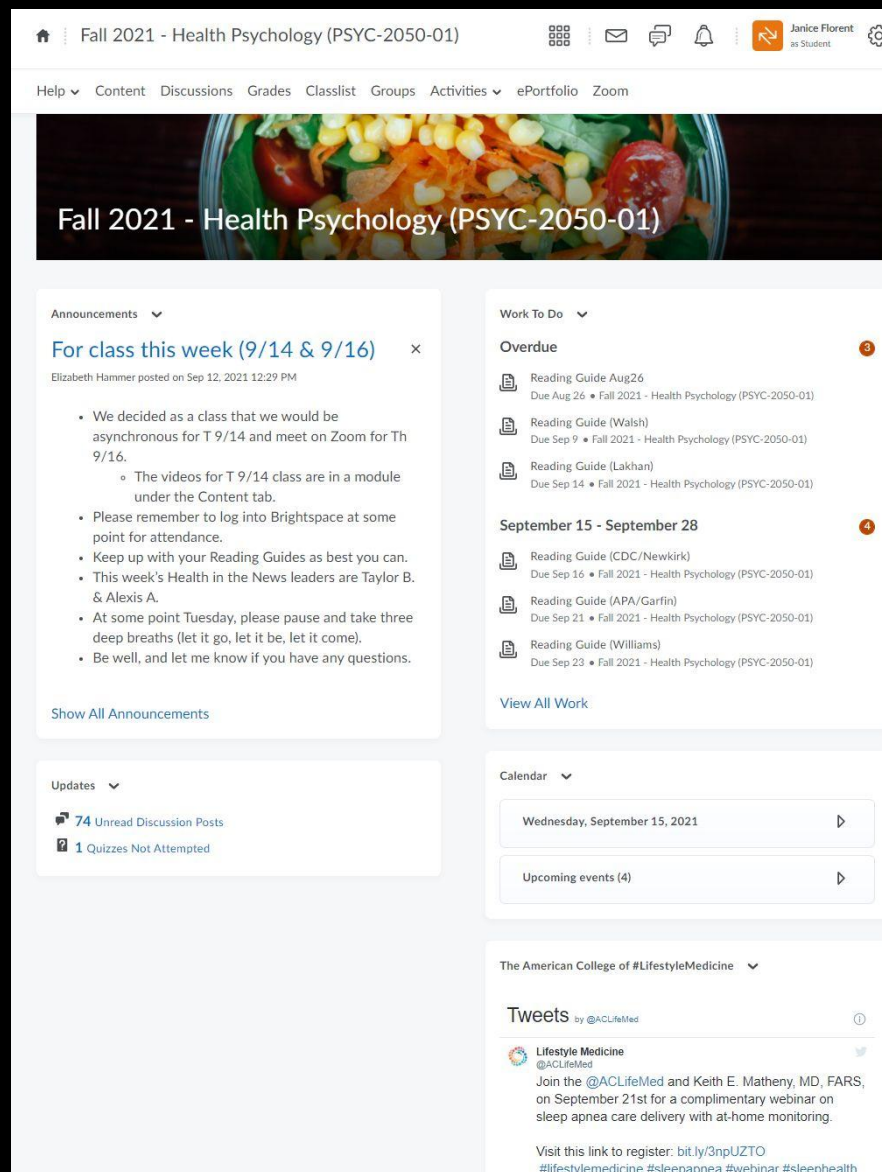


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Homepage Layout

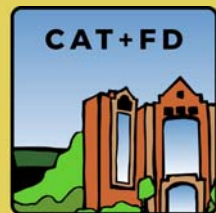
- Two Equal Panels

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The screenshot shows a Blackboard LMS interface for a course titled "Fall 2021 - Health Psychology (PSYC-2050-01)". The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Content, Discussions, Grades, Classlist, Groups, Activities, ePortfolio, and Zoom. A user profile for "Janice Florent as Student" is visible in the top right. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a salad with the course title overlaid. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains an "Announcements" section with a post from Elizabeth Hammer dated Sep 12, 2021, and an "Updates" section showing 74 unread discussion posts and 1 quiz not attempted. The right column contains a "Work To Do" section with a list of reading guides and their due dates, a "Calendar" section showing the current date as Wednesday, September 15, 2021, and a "Tweets" section featuring a tweet from @ACLifeMed about a webinar on sleep apnea care delivery.

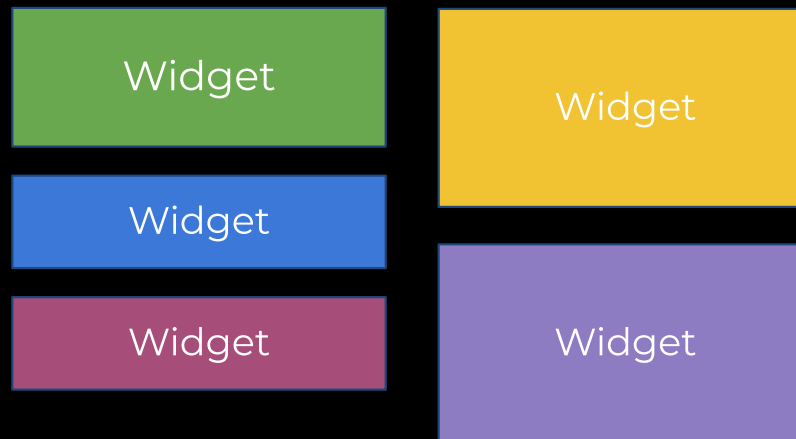
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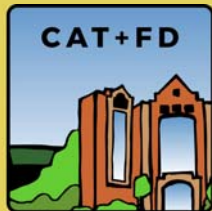
Widgets

- “Building blocks” of homepages.
- Live feeds of tools and external links.



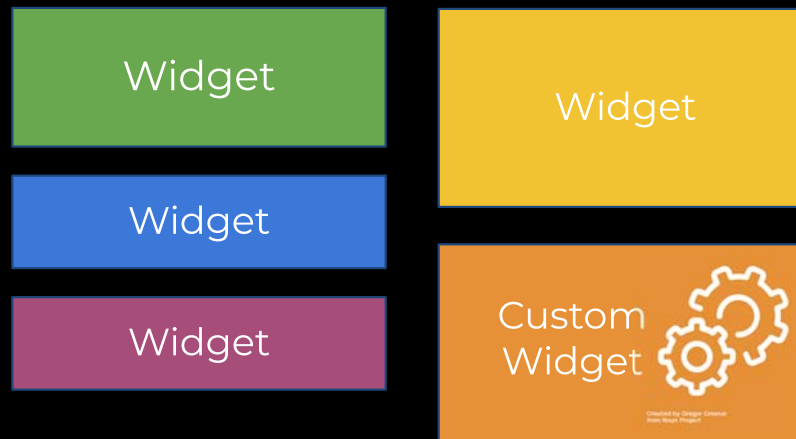
System Widgets

- Built into Brightspace
- You cannot
 - Modify or delete
- You can
 - Choose the system widgets to place on your homepage
 - Change the location on course homepage
 - Customize display options



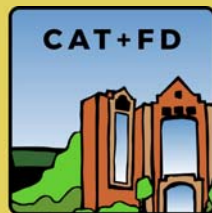
Custom Widgets

- Built in the Brightspace Editor (or an external application)
- You choose what to put in the widget box



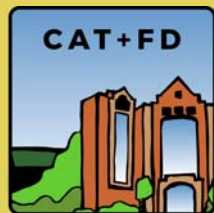
System Widgets

Widget	Description
Announcements	Communicates important updates and information to users.
Calendar	Mini-calendar and a list of upcoming events.
Updates	Unread submission files, unevaluated assignment submissions, unread discussions posts, ungraded quizzes, quizzes that have not been attempted
Work To Do	Provides learners with a summary of their assigned learning activities that are overdue or have an upcoming due date or end date. Only visible to users with the Student role.



System Widgets

Widget	Description
Activity Feed	The feed is a way to engage with your learners, with the opportunity to have a more casual format. You have the option to allow learners to comment in the feed. You can post reminders, course news, time sensitive/course sensitive updates, and it may be an easier way for you to create assignments.
Content Browser	Browse course content, view recently visited topics, and view bookmarked topics from your course homepage.
Quick Eval	Allows instructors to view and access submissions awaiting evaluation. Only visible to users with the Instructor role.



Course Homepage

- Course name
- Banner image
- Banner text
- System widgets
 - Announcements
 - Updates
 - Work To Do
 - Calendar
- Custom widget
 - Twitter Feed

The screenshot shows a Blackboard course homepage. At the top, the course name 'Fall 2021 - Health Psychology (PSYC-2050-01)' is displayed. Below the name is a banner image of a salad. The main content area is divided into several widgets: 'Announcements' (with a post from Elizabeth Hammer), 'Work To Do' (listing reading guides), 'Updates' (showing 74 unread discussion posts and 1 quiz), and 'Calendar' (showing upcoming events). A custom widget at the bottom right displays a Twitter feed from 'The American College of #LifestyleMedicine'. Arrows from the list on the left point to these specific elements: the course name, banner image, banner text, system widgets (Announcements, Updates, Work To Do, Calendar), and the custom Twitter widget.

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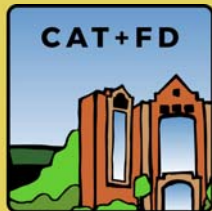
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Homepages & Widgets in Action



Image Credit: [Image](#) by OpenClipart-Vectors from [Pixabay](#)

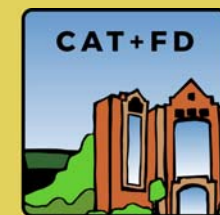
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Janice Florent @jmflorent · Aug 3

67% of online #HigherEd students prefer to use a mobile device, calling for more mobile-friendly #EdTech solutions tech.mg/XwBlaQ via @EdTech_HigherEd



More Students Rely On Mobile Devices to Complete Online Classes

New academic uses for smartphones emphasize the need for a robust mobile network on campus.

edtechmagazine.com



Janice Florent @jmflorent · 1m

Survey: 94% of Students Want to Use Their Cell Phones in Class -- Campus Technology campustechnology.com/articles/2017/... #edtech



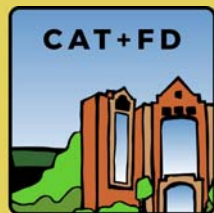
campustechnology.com

Survey: 94% of Students Want to Use Their Cell Phones in Class -- Ca...
A whopping 94 percent of students in a recent survey said they want to use their cell phones in class for academic purposes.



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Now Is the Time to Embrace Mobile

Christina Moore Monday, June 22, 2020 Teaching & Learning

6 min read

The circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic highlight the opportunities and benefits that mobile technologies can provide to students and instructors as they learn and teach in unusual times.



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Search

Coronavirus lockdown | Over 80% of students depend on mobiles for learning: NCERT



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

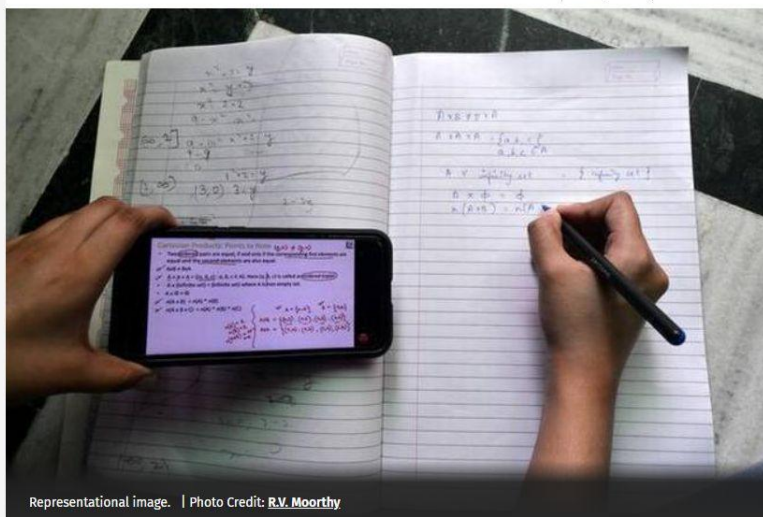
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 19, 2020 22:46 IST

UPDATED: AUGUST 20, 2020 13:24 IST

SHARE ARTICLE



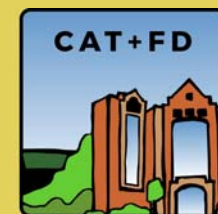
PRINT



Representational image. | Photo Credit: R.V. Moorthy

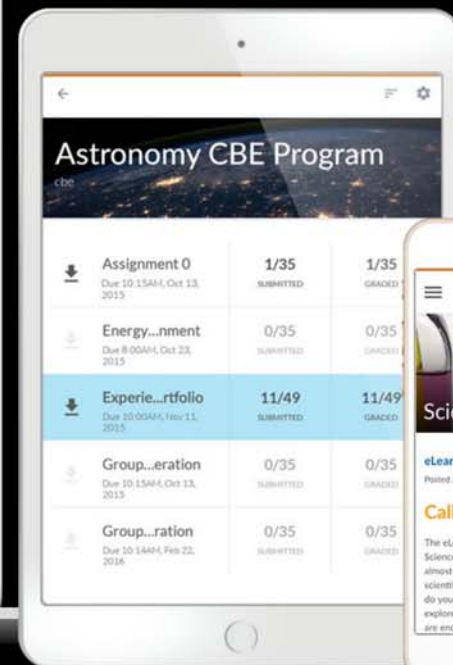
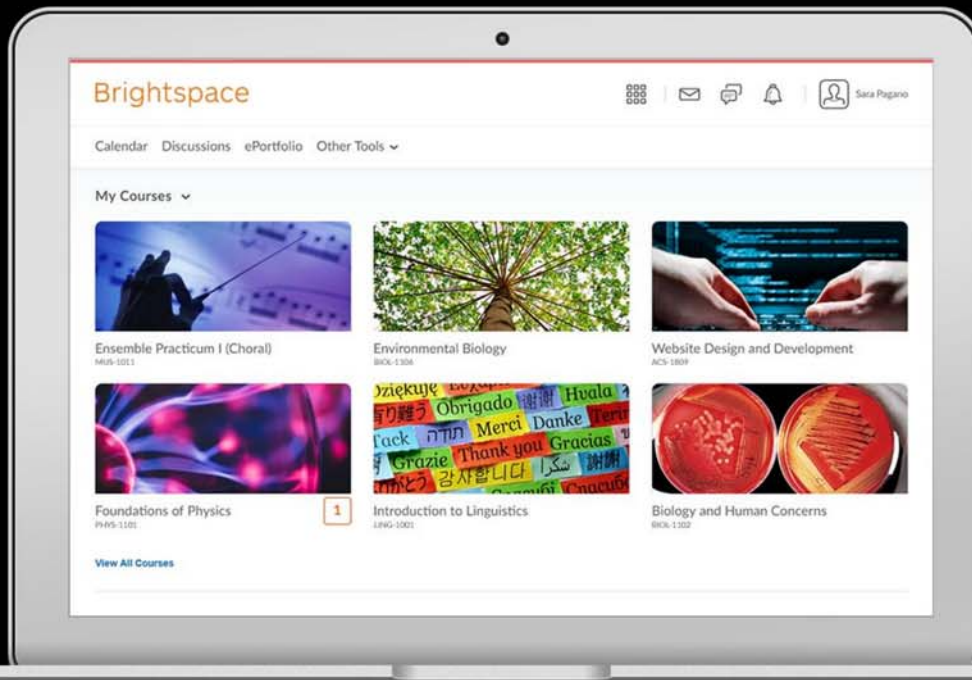
States told to ensure continuous learning for every child

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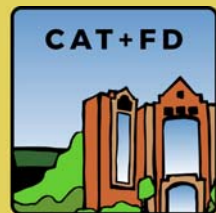
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Responsive Design



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Widgets

- Effective widgets serve two purposes
 - Navigation
 - Quick access to frequently used course features
 - Communication
 - Up-to-date information and just-in-time resources

Homepage Design Tip #1

- Recommended banner image
 - 2400 by 960 pixels
 - No text in the image



Credit: [image](#) by Ronile from [Pixabay](#)

Good choice for banner image



Credit: [image](#) by stinne24 from [Pixabay](#)

Poor choice for banner image

Homepage Design Tip #2

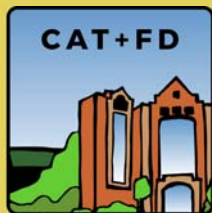
- Strive for minimal scrolling
 - Reduces cognitive effort
 - Makes the content more digestible
 - Helps users more easily find what they need



Image Credit: [Image](#) by Pexels from [Pixabay](#)

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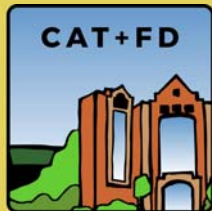
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Homepage Design Tip #3

- Put your most important information where learners scan first.
 - Users typically start in the top left and work their way right and down as they catch relevant words.
 - The least looked at part of any webpage is the bottom right.



Image Credit: [WOCinTech Chat](#) / CC BY 2.0



Homepage Design Tip #4

- Activity Feed widget
 - Use the Basic Homepage layout and add Activity Feed widget to large panel.
 - Ensure the large panel does not include other widgets.
 - Widgets placed below the Activity Feed can become lost as the feed grows.



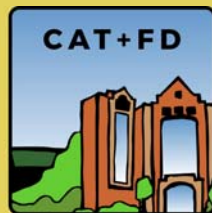
Image Credit: [Longleat Hedge Maze](#) by Cyberslayer is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)

Homepage Design Tip #5

- Drip-Feeding
 - Reduce clutter on homepage by scheduling content delivery
 - Use availability dates where appropriate
 - For example, enter **start** and **end** dates for Announcements
 - Serves as added benefit when copying courses

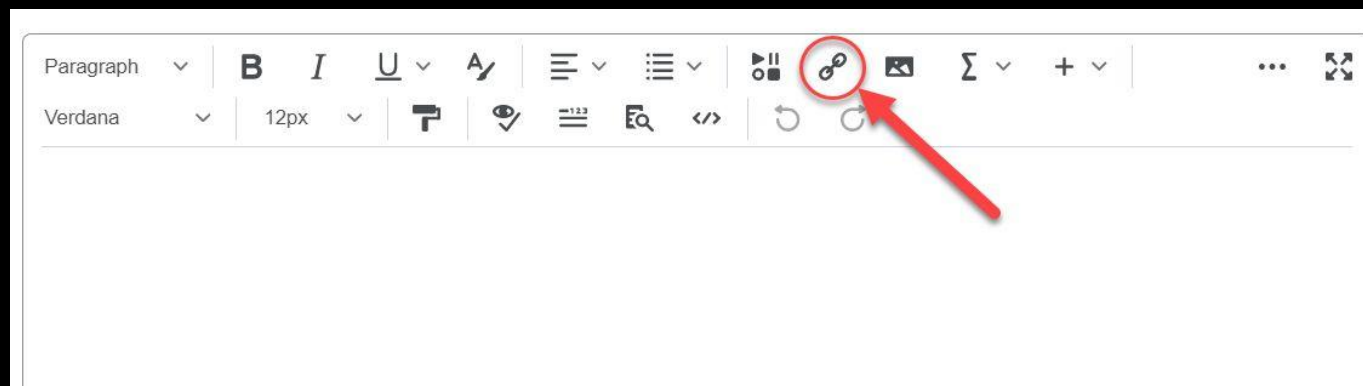


Image Credit: [image](#) by Buntysmum from [Pikabay](#)



Homepage Design Tip #6

- Custom Widgets
 - Utilize Quicklinks in widgets where you are directing learners to course content



Potential Pitfall #1

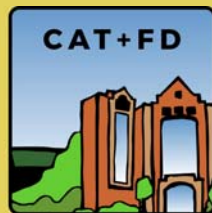
- Content Browser widget
 - Module descriptions
 - Learners may miss important information in the description when navigating course using this widget



Image Credit: [Image](#) by OpenClipart-Vectors from [Pixabay](#)

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Potential Pitfall #2

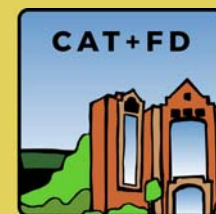
- Use the Announcements widget or the Activity Feed widget
 - **DO NOT** use both



Image Credit: [Image](#) by OpenClipart-Vectors from [Pixabay](#)



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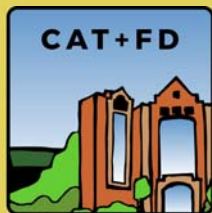
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Potential Pitfall #3

- Activity Feed widget
 - Messages **CANNOT** be copied to another course
 - If copying messages is important, use Announcements widget instead
 - Assignment option
 - Assignments can be copied to another course but will have to be relinked



Image Credit: [Image](#) by OpenClipart-Vectors from [Pixabay](#)



Potential Pitfall #4

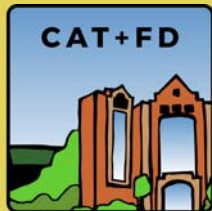
- Too many widgets
 - Don't clutter your homepage

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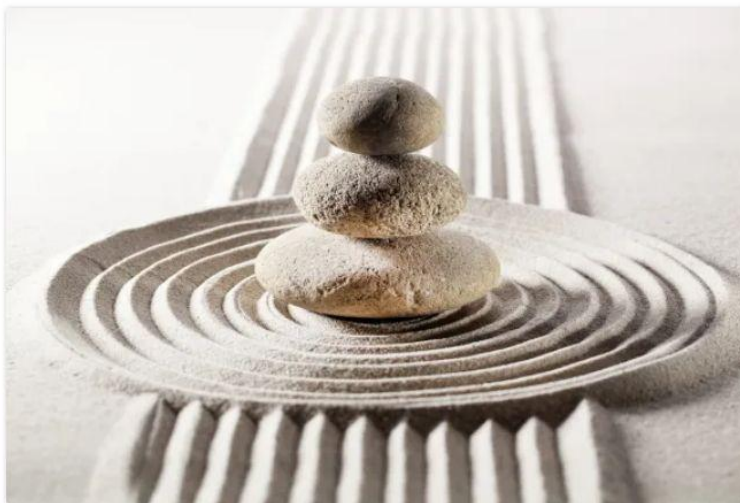
(for thought)

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ABOUT THIS BLOG

Brightspace Tip #227: Course Design Suggestions

Janice Florent • May 9, 2021 • [Leave a comment](#)



I usually get a lot of questions from faculty related to setting up their Brightspace courses. In the spirit of starting the summer session with less stress, I offer the following course design suggestions to reduce your course setup and management stress:

Search

BRIGHTSPACE

BRIGHTSPACE DOCUMENTS

- [Guide to Taking Tests in Brightspace](#)
- [Record, Upload, and Share Video on YouTube](#)

BRIGHTSPACE FAQ

- [Respondus LockDown Browser FAQ](#)
- [Respondus Monitor FAQ](#)
- [VoiceThread FAQ](#)
- [ePortfolios FAQ](#)

PODCAST

Teaching, Learning, and Everything Else

Conversation #105: Pamela Waldron-Moore on Teaching a Just Transition (Part 2)

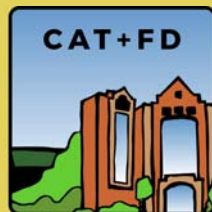
 July 13, 2021

 25 minutes

Conversation #104: Pamela Waldron-

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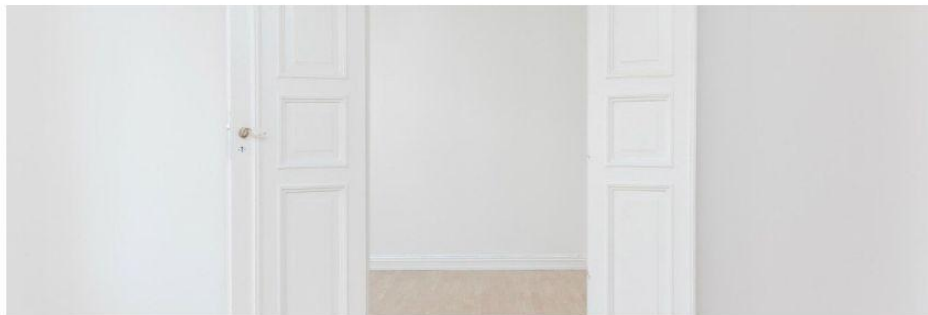


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Accessibility & Usability ▾

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[Accessibility & Usability: Get Started](#) ▾

 Web Page



[Accessibility & Usability: Learn More](#) ▾

 Web Page



[Accessibility & Usability: See Brightspace Examples](#) ▾

 Web Page



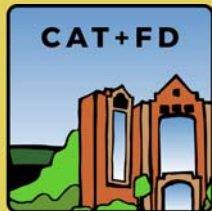
[Accessibility & Usability: Take Action](#) ▾

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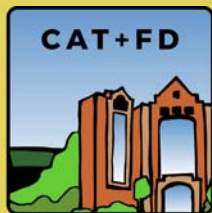
Workshop Slides, Recording, & Resources

<https://catwiki.xula.edu/homepages>



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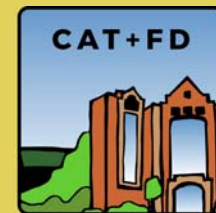
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Any
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