

EARNING A SPOT ON THE RIT MYCOURSES TOP 50 HEAVY HITTERS: PRACTICAL TIPS

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RIT INNOVATIVE LEARNING INSTITUTE (ILI) TEACHING AND LEARNING SERVICES (TLS)

RIT ILI/TLS calculates its Heavy Hitters lists by noting interaction within *myCourses* as averaged by the number of people in the class. Interaction includes:

- News announcements and calendar items
- Messages posted in online discussions
- Number of chat rooms created
- Feedback left in the dropbox
- Public and private comments left in the grade book

INSTRUCTOR OBSERVATIONS

- Emphasis by RIT ILI TLS = *interactions* between instructor and students
- High number of interactions between instructor and students = a characteristic of active learning
- Takes motivated students to acquire evidenced interactions
- Take advantage of the STUDENT VIEW option and the HISTORY DATA produced by students

- Talking with colleagues is helpful
- Students value instructor feedback
- Take advantage of tlssupport@rit.edu – quick responses
- Explore with browsers – Internet Explorer, Firefox (ILI TLS-recommended), Chrome
- *myCourses* for teaching online, blended or traditional classes

- Requires disciplined commitment on the instructor's end
- Setting up shell is time-consuming – importing used for future shells
- Number of students nor number items in CONTENT section have no bearing on interactions
- Use *myCourses* to access RIT Early Alerts

MYCOURSES STRUCTURE

CONTENT: Module → Topic

DROPBOX: Category → Folder

DISCUSSIONS: Forum → Topic

QUIZZES: Section → Question

GRADES: Category → Item

NEWS

- Create special announcements (welcome by teacher, required textbooks, location of classroom)
- Post class agendas (absent students can look it up)
- Remind students of homework assignments, quizzes, tests, final examinations and projects

CONTENT

- Create overview of specific course
- Table of contents needs to be reader-friendly
- Flipped classroom lectures can be uploaded

CALENDAR

- Remind students of specific events
- Can sort events by agendas, days, weeks or months

CLASSLIST

- SELECT ALL option is available to e-mail students, re: specific topics or reminders related to the course
- Enroll chairperson, teacher assistant or assigned tutor

DROPBOX

- A visual reminder of assignments during the academic term
- Create accompanying rubrics to automatically update grades

DISCUSSIONS

- Select the “*student must respond first before seeing other responses*” option
- Opportunity to introduce the concept of online learning to students
- A discussion thread = in-class activity

GRADES

- Create gradebook according to syllabus (tests, quizzes, assignments, attendance, projects) – housekeeping logistics kept to a minimum
- Monitor attendance – be it 10, 30 or 45 sessions (1 point each class session, for example)
- Students keep track of their grades as academic term progresses along

FEEDBACK

- This option is available for the dropbox, discussions and grade sections
- Take advantage of the COPY/PASTE option to provide feedback to students
- Gradebook: GENERAL for the entire class, SPECIFIC for the individual student