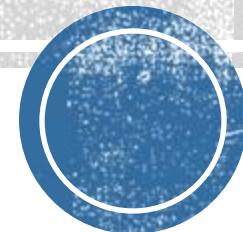


Canvas vs. Blackboard

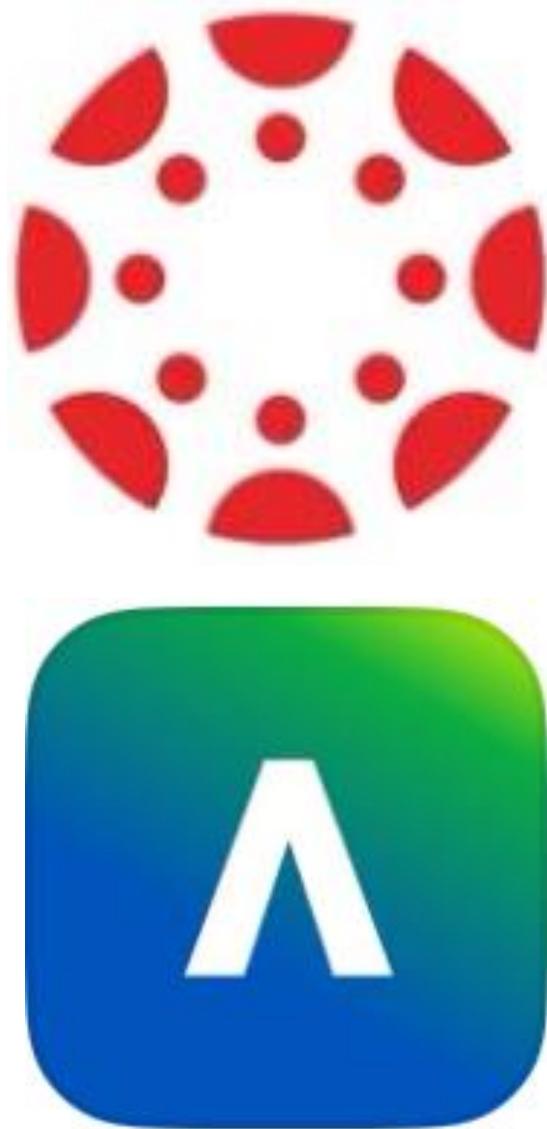
A Website Analysis



A Little Background

- Our school transitioned from Blackboard to Canvas before the Fall semester started.
- Summer classes (that ended 2 days before Fall started) were still using Blackboard.
- I had finally gotten used to all of Blackboard's quirks (after 3 years) only to change to Canvas for my final year.
- I was (luckily) already familiar with Canvas, having used it at my previous schools.
- Both platforms have their pros and cons.



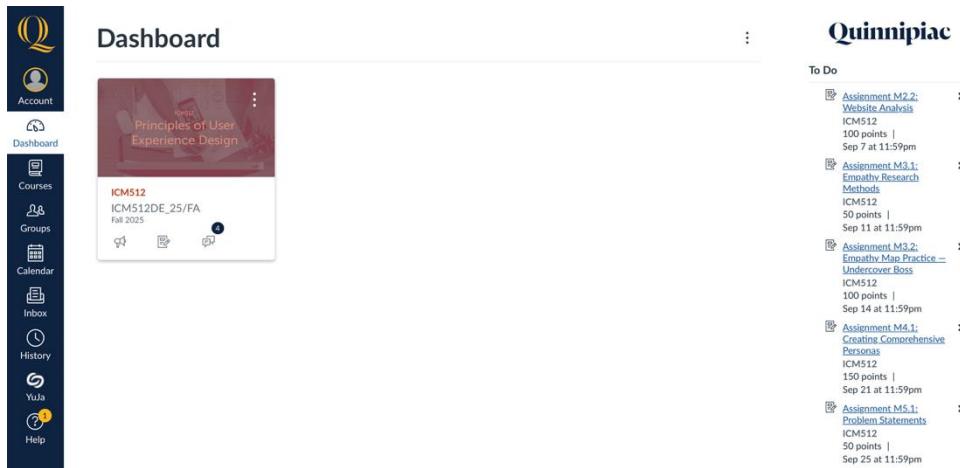


The Mobile Apps

- The design of both apps' icons makes me feel uneasy because my need for straight-forwardness is not met. Looking at these two icons, there are no indicators about which might be which or even what these apps are for.
- When I first installed the Canvas app (top) on my phone, its badge notifications made me feel anxious and nervous because there would be numbers for how many assignments I had to do that week. I quickly turned that feature off because my need to not have my upcoming assignments glaring at me on my phone had to be met.
- From using the Blackboard app (bottom), usually only in a pinch when I couldn't access my laptop easily, I felt constantly frustrated. Every time I opened it, I would have to sign-in, and open 2 other apps in the process to do the authentication. My need for the efficiency of having access on my phone was not met. It would've been faster to stop, pull out my laptop, and turn it on to check a simple announcement.



The Dashboards - Canvas

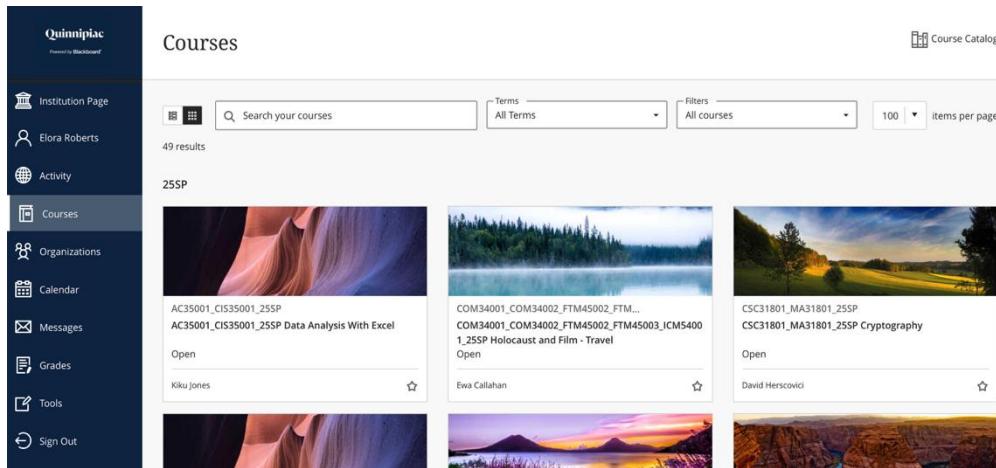


The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the Canvas LMS interface. The left screenshot shows the 'Dashboard' with a course card for 'ICMS12 Principles of User Experience Design'. The right screenshot shows the 'To Do' list for the user, which includes five assignments: Assignment M2.2, Assignment M3.1, Assignment M3.2, Assignment M4.1, and Assignment M5.1. Each assignment card includes the class name (ICMS12), assignment name, description, points, due date, and time.

*Note: only taking one class at the moment.

- When I open Canvas, I feel at peace because my need for conciseness is being met. My upcoming assignments are listed on the right; I am able to see that there are unread discussion responses and can easily navigate to what I am looking for.
- I also feel more organized because I can fulfill my need of knowing which class is which. Being able to add my own 'nickname' to the class allows me to easily know which is which.

The Dashboards - Blackboard



The screenshot shows the Blackboard Courses dashboard. The left sidebar includes links for Institution Page, Elora Roberts, Activity, Courses (which is selected), Organizations, Calendar, Messages, Grades, Tools, and Sign Out. The main area is titled 'Courses' and shows a search bar with 'Search your courses', dropdowns for 'Terms' (All Terms) and 'Filters' (All courses), and a '100 items per page' button. Below this, it says '49 results' and '25SP'. There are three course cards visible: 1. AC35001_CI535001_25SP Data Analysis With Excel, taught by Kiku Jones. 2. COM34001_COM34002_FTM45002_FTM... COM34001_CI535001_25SP Holocaust and Film - Travel, taught by Ewa Callahan. 3. CSC31801_MA31801_25SP Cryptography, taught by David Herscovici. Each card has a thumbnail image, the course code, name, teacher, and an 'Open' button.

*Note: Classes from last spring

- When I would open Blackboard, I would instantly feel overwhelmed. My need for easy accessibility was not being met. I would have to click on each class to see what was due soon.
- If I were to scroll down, I would see all the classes I had been enrolled in throughout my three years and feel anxious. My need to only focus on the present was being hindered.

Navigating the Modules - Canvas

▶ Preview week: August 18–24

▶ Module 1: Design Thinking Overview — August 25 – 31

▶ Module 2: User Psychology — September 1 – 7

 Learning objectives and activity overview

 What motivates behavior?

 Readings and viewings

 Assignment M2.1: Feelings About a Product, Service and Device
 Sep 4 50 pts

 Assignment M2.2: Website Analysis
 Sep 7 100 pts

 Student examples module 2

- While viewing the modules on Canvas, I feel content. My need for closure is met. Once a week's module is finished, I can minimize it so that it doesn't take up too much space anymore.
- Another feature that pleases me is that the items in the module are all shown under the module. This helps my need for having things in one place and efficiency of not having to open new pages.



Navigating the Modules - Blackboard

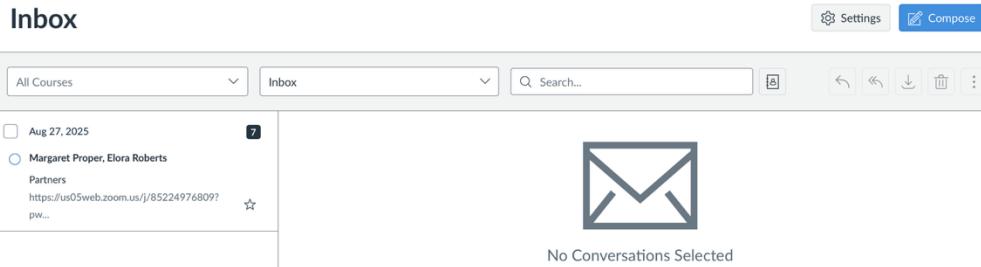
 Module 1: Intro to Project Design ▾
This module is intended for Jan. 23, 2023 . This module contains Assignment 1.
 Module 2: Gathering Stage ▾
This module is intended for Jan. 28, 2025 . This module contains Assignment 2.
 Module 3: Foundations of Professional Ethics in DS ▾
This module is intended for Jan. 30, 2024 . This module contains Assignment 3.
 Module 4: Writing a Methods Section ▾
This module is intended for Feb. 4, 2025 . This module contains Assignment 4.
 Module 5: Algorithmic Bias ▾
This module is intended for Feb. 6 . This module contains Assignment 5.
 Module 6: Professional Standards in Data Science ▾
This module is intended for Feb. 11 . This module contains Assignment 6.

- The module interface on Blackboard made me feel frustrated with its inaccessibility and inefficiency. My need to find items in a timely manner are not met. To click and open each module to view what was in it took more time.
- It also displeases me with its formatting and icons. They are not meeting my need for things being aesthetically pleasing.



Messaging - Canvas

Inbox



All Courses Inbox Search...

Aug 27, 2025 7

Margaret Proper, Elora Roberts
Partners
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85224976809?pwd=8JWwMjWg13Ct29GAtwsayfw92k10uJ.1>

No Conversations Selected

Partners

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85224976809?pwd=8JWwMjWg13Ct29GAtwsayfw92k10uJ.1>



Margaret Proper

Margaret.Proper@quinnipiac.edu

You can reply to this message in Canvas by replying directly to this email. If you need to include an attachment, please log in to Canvas and reply through the Inbox.



[View this message in Conversations](#) | [Update your notification settings](#)

- The messaging feature on Canvas allows me to feel connected with my classmates. It fulfills my need to complete partner assignments and communicate effectively without having to send emails.
- This feature also has an email component that allows me to feel present with what is happening. It meets my need for being able to answer right away without having to get into Canvas itself.

Submission Emails - Blackboard



do-not-reply@blackboard.com

Submission received

To: Elora Roberts,

Reply-To: blackboardadmin@quinnipiac.edu

Your submission was successful!

You can save or print this confirmation for your records. You can also view your receipts on your My Grades page.

Submission details:

Confirmation number: c41006da0157495bbebe3fd458dc88b7

Course: DS48001_25SP Data Science Capstone

Course ID: DS48001_25SP

Title: Final Written Report

Submission date: May 4, 2025 5:14 PM

Size of written submission: 0 bytes

Size and name of files received: FinalReport.docx (3,750.4 kb)

Unique Item ID (for administrator use only): _3882147_1

- Receiving the emails after submitting an assignment make me feel burdened. I already receive too many emails as it is, and getting these ones delays my need for having an empty inbox.

Grading Systems

The screenshot shows a list of assignments and activities. The first three are standard assignments with due dates and grade ranges. The last three are activity logs with specific submission counts and grades.

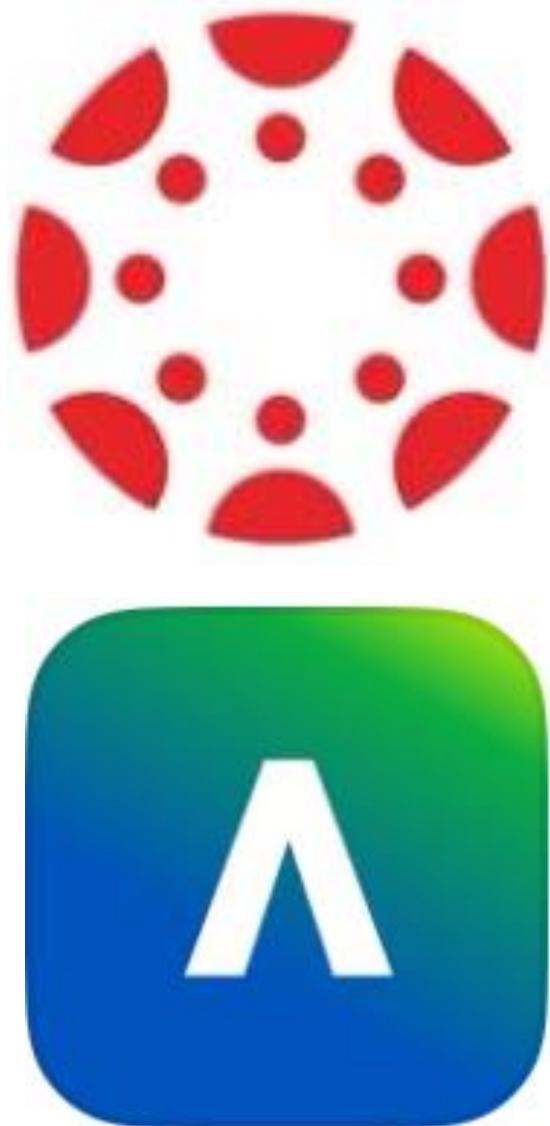
Assignment	Due Date	Grade Range
Assignment M3.2: Empathy Map Practice – Undercover Boss Assignments	Sep 14 by 11:59pm	- / 100
Assignment M4.1: Creating Comprehensive Personas Assignments	Sep 21 by 11:59pm	0 / 150
Assignment M5.1: Problem Statements Assignments	Sep 25 by 11:59pm	- / 50
Excel 2021 In Practice - Ch 1 Guided Project 1-3	6/8/25	Graded
Excel 2021 In Practice - Ch 1 Independent Project 1-4	6/8/25	Graded
Chapter 2 SIMpath	6/8/25	Graded

Activity details for the last three rows:

- Excel 2021 In Practice - Ch 1 Guided Project 1-3: 1 attempt submitted, 20 / 20, View
- Excel 2021 In Practice - Ch 1 Independent Project 1-4: 1 attempt submitted, 30 / 30, View
- Chapter 2 SIMpath: 1 attempt submitted, 10 / 10, View

- The Canvas grading system makes me feel accomplished and productive. The ability to test different grade values satisfies my need of maintaining a good GPA.
- The Blackboard grading system makes me feel nervous. The colors changing based on the grade fulfills my need to have consistency while not meeting my need of having varying grades.





Overall

- Overall, Canvas makes me feel accomplished, productive and at ease while using it. It fulfills my need to complete my schoolwork in an easy and manageable way. It has a lot of additional features and more user-friendly options that allow things to be viewed with more efficiency.
- Overall, Blackboard makes me feel grateful that we no longer use it, when compared to Blackboard. When I did use it, I would feel unorganized with all the different windows. It did not meet my need of being able to do my work in an efficient manner.