

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.



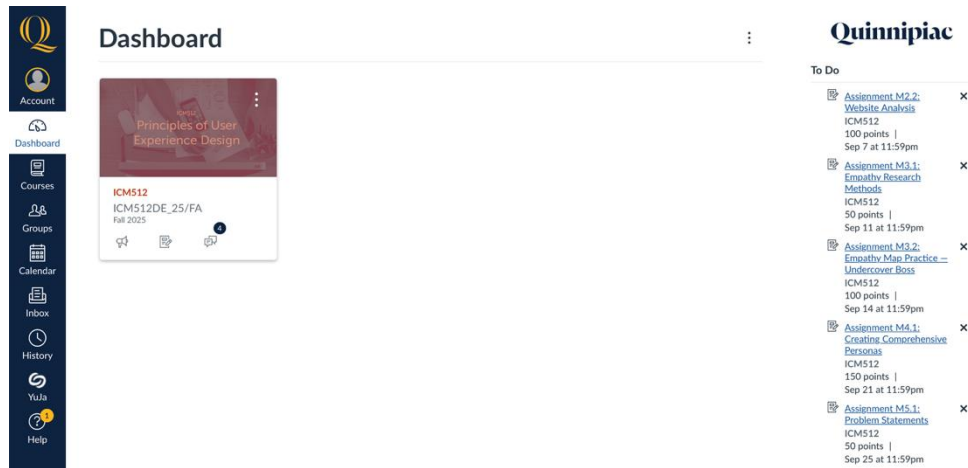


The Mobile Apps

- 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

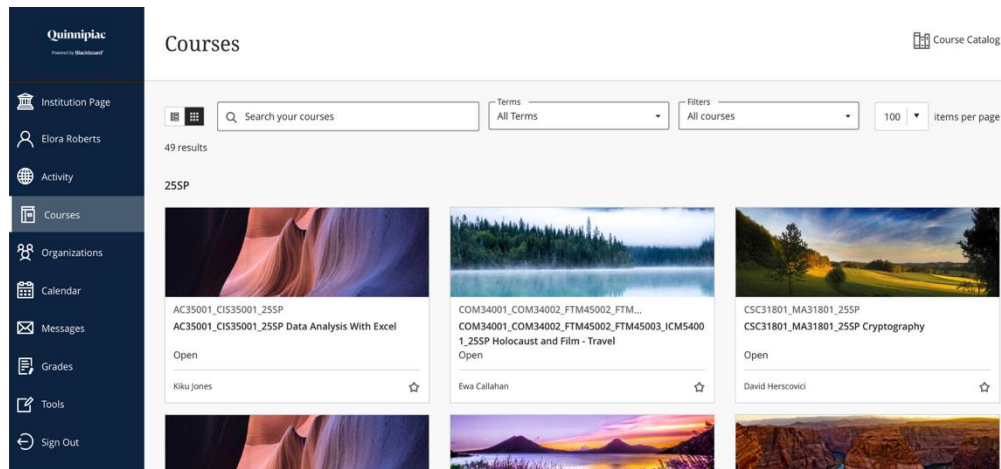


*Note: only taking one class at the moment.

- 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



*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.



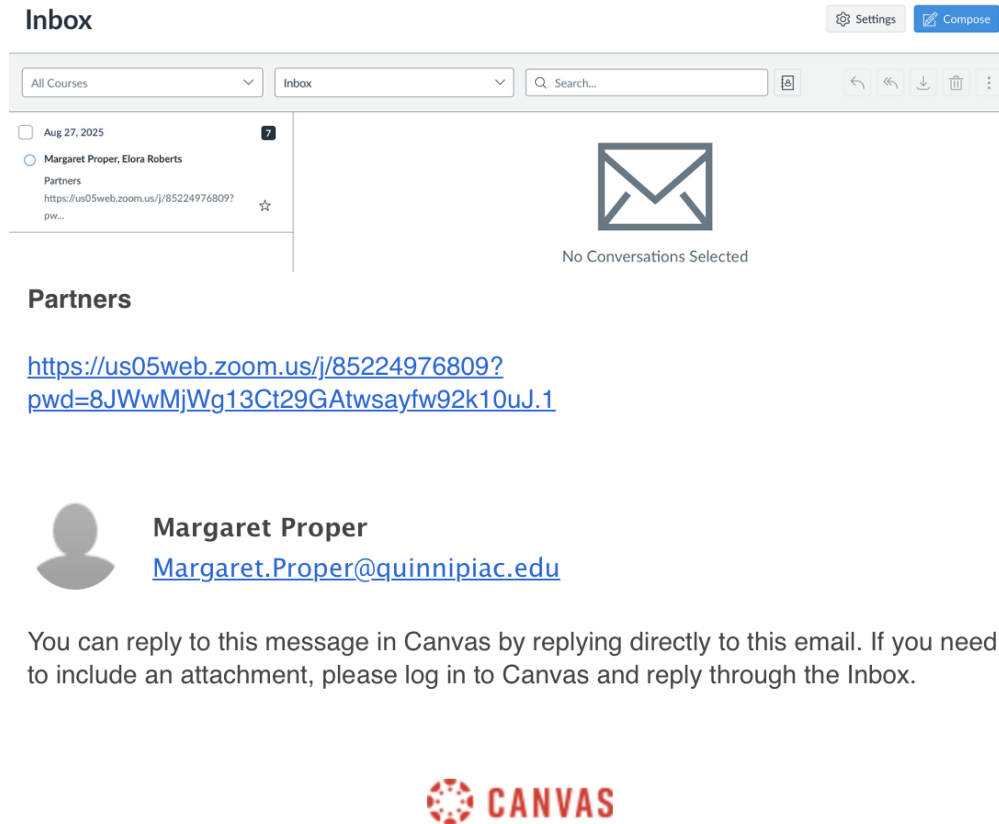
Navigating the Modules - Blackboard

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




- 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.

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



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

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 1 attempt submitted	6/8/25	Graded	20 / 20	View
Excel 2021 In Practice - Ch 1 Independent Project 1-4 1 attempt submitted	6/8/25	Graded	30 / 30	View
Chapter 2 SIMpath 1 attempt submitted	6/8/25	Graded	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.

