D2L Overview for Learners

This guide will explain the basic elements of your course in D2L Brightspace (Desire2Learn) and how to access them. We have a quick video overview too.

Table of Contents
Basic Course Navigation................................................................. 1
Assignments .................................................................................. 3
Quizzes ......................................................................................... 3
Discussions ................................................................................... 4
Need Help? .................................................................................... 5
  D2L Support via Phone................................................................ 5
  D2L Support via Self-Help ......................................................... 5
  D2L Help Chat ......................................................................... 5

Basic Course Navigation
In general, courses should be configured in a similar manner; however, please ask your instructor to provide a tour of the D2L course and how they will use features. They are required to do this so do not be shy.

![D2L Menu Bar]

1. **Course Home** will take you back to the course landing page where you will find announcements, and other resources.

2. **Content** dropdown menu brings you to course materials like the syllabus, lecture videos and reading assignments.
3. **Resources** dropdown menu allows you to access the course **Calendar** and any **Checklists** that your instructor may have created.

4. **Communication** dropdown menu brings you to tools to communicate with others in your course. Obtain your classmates email from the **Classlist**, participate in online **Discussions**, or access group information from within **Groups**.

5. **Assessments** dropdown menu shows you tools like **Assignments** where you can submit papers and **Quizzes** where you can take online quizzes and tests. There is also **Grades** where you can view your grades and **Awards** where you can view course awards that you have earned.

6. **MyCourseEval**, will take you to the course evaluation tool. You will receive a notification when the course evaluation is available. This is an important step to complete as it assists with continuous improvements within the course.

This [YouTube video](#) that also provides an overview. Click thumbnail to watch.
Assignments
You can access assignments from the top menu bar by clicking **Assessment** and then clicking **Assignments**. You will then see a list of your assignments for the course. Underneath the assignment title, there may be date restrictions – open or close dates and times show the availability for that assignment.

![Assignments in D2L](image)

Quizzes
You can access quizzes from the top menu bar by clicking **Assessment** and then click **Quizzes**. The main screen will indicate the numbers of attempts you have, the time limit and the date the quiz will be available.

![Quizzes in D2L](image)
Note that once you click “submit” the quiz is considered completed and that will count as one attempt.

**Discussions**
You can access discussions from the communication drop down in the top menu bar. Discussions are organized with this structure:

- **Forum** – The top of our organizational structure. Your instructor will organize topics within the forums.
- **Topic** – The actual question, or discussion topic. Within topics are where you and your instructor will interact.
- **Thread** – These are the actual conversations on the discussion topic. You will respond to the topic by starting a thread.
- **Reply** – Responding to an existing thread creates a “reply.”

*Figure 5 D2L Discussion*
Need Help?

**D2L Support via Phone**
- If your issue is related to D2L (e.g., quizzes, videos)
  - Call 618-453-2258 and select Option 1.
  - This is the 24-Hour D2L Support Center available to SIUC students and instructors.

**D2L Support via Self-Help**
- You can also access the D2L Community from the D2L Navigation Bar.
- You will need to create a D2L Community account ([Instructions](#)).

**D2L Help Chat**
- Locate the “D2L Help Widget” typically in the bottom-right corner of the screen.
- Type your issue in the chat box.
- The chatbot will help you find a solution.

*Figure 6 D2L Support Options*