

What's New?

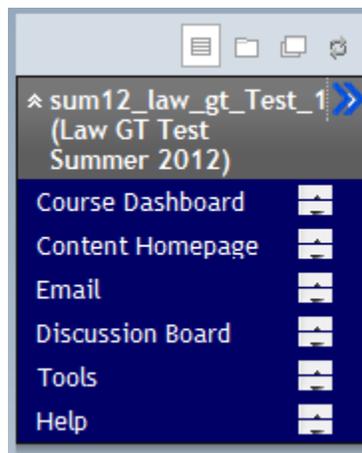
While the migration from the old Blackboard 8 server to the new Blackboard 9 server seems overwhelming at first, it is important to remember that most of the features you use are still present and work the same way, just with some tweaking.

Obviously, the look and feel of Blackboard 9 is different from that of Bb 8. The colors are different, the menu looks different, and the Control Panel is built into the main page rather than requiring you to click and leave your class's landing page.

Starting at the top left of the screen, you'll see your Course ID followed by your Course Name. For example,



Just below that is the new navigation menu. As you can see, we've updated the default options with the most commonly-accessed Blackboard items.



The **Course Dashboard** is the main landing page and provides a one-stop summary of everything going on in the Blackboard class. What shows up on this landing page is up to each professor, but don't hesitate to give it a shot!

Following the **Course Dashboard** we have the **Content Homepage**. This is just a renamed version of Course Documents. Why did we rename it? Because the section is no longer meant for just your syllabus and Word documents. Content Homepage will be where you store all of your class content,

Questions?
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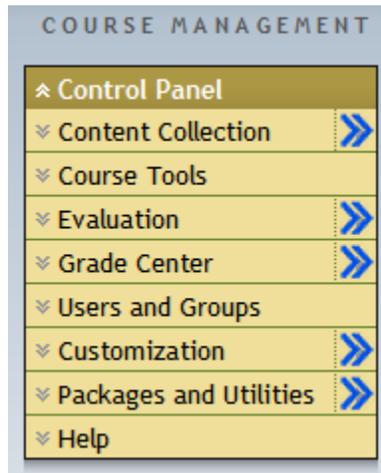
including Word documents, PowerPoint files, audio and video presentations (including class recordings), external links, quizzes, and so on.

Next is **Email**. We've eliminated the unnecessary step of having to click "Communication" first in order to email your students.

The **Discussion Board** option follows. The Discussion Board topic is discussed in another help file, but rest assured it works substantially similar to the one in the old Blackboard 8 server.

Tools is the second to last default option. We've replaced many of the old, unused tools with new options that you can explore. Many of the items are meant for the undergrads, but please feel free to explore what's available when you have the time.

Help is the last option and takes you to Blackboard's official **student** support site. You can access Blackboard's official **instructor** support site via the Help button at the very bottom left of the screen – the very last item under the Course Management > Control Panel section.



Don't feel like you need to rely on that for support! I'm more than happy to help answer any of your questions when they arise, just give me a call, send me an email, or stop by my office.

The **Control Panel** now lives entirely on the main page and doesn't require you to click to go into a different subpage. You can access the Control Panel items by clicking either the grey downward double arrows to the left of each entry or the blue right-pointing arrows to the right of each entry.

