

Blackboard Learning System X +

Drexel University

Bb Vista Home Administration Content Manager

Welcome. James Mitchell. Today is March 19, 2010 11:09 AM EDT.

Calendar Day You currently have no entries for today.

To Do List You currently have no items.

My Grades You currently have no new grades.

Course List

Number of Hidden Links: 11

[Special Tops Arch Engr - AE-380-501](#)
Section Instructor: James Mitchell

[Arch Engr Design II - AE-391-002](#)
Section Instructor: James Mitchell

[Arch Engr Design II - AE-391-001](#)
Section Instructor: Robert Brehm

[Designer 101 - Designer Forum](#)
Section Instructor: Chris Shields

[James Mitchell - SB-Other](#)
Section Instructor: James Mitchell

[Arch Engr Design I - AE-390-001](#)
Section Instructor: James Mitchell

James E. Mitchell
Drexel – Civil & Architectural Engineering

PUSHING VISTABLACKBOARD BEYOND ITS CLOSED WORLD

A BIT ABOUT ME

- ✕ Engineer First, then Architect
 - + Practiced 9 years with own firm
- ✕ At Drexel 20 years
 - + Head of Architectural Engineering (AE) Program
 - + Teach AE Design
 - + Focus is on education – NOT online
 - ✕ I'm halfway between Jean-Claude Bradley & Traditional
 - ✕ I believe that something important happens face-to-face
 - + Tech-enthusiast
 - ✕ But it has to be useful – not just cool
 - + Regular VistaBlackboard User

WHAT WE'LL DO

- ✗ VistaBlackboard (VBB)“closed”
 - + Why that’s good
 - + What are the limitations
- ✗ How can one extend VBB – 3 ways
- ✗ Three courses in which I extend VBB
- ✗ Tools that allow me to extend VBB
- ✗ Conclusions

HOW VISTABB IS CLOSED

- ✗ The primary model for VBB is a “course”
 - + It has (usually) a duration
 - ✗ There are techniques to extend it but sacrifices in doing so
 - + It always has an enrollment
- ✗ VBB requires a login
 - + Only those who are registered may see the material
- ✗ Material created (or submitted) within VBB is locked within the system

WHY A CLOSED SYSTEM GOOD

✗ Control

- + Requiring logon and ID allows “permissions” and control of what and when can be seen.

✗ Privacy

- + There is much sensitive material in VBB
 - ✗ Student submissions
 - ✗ Grades
 - ✗ Instructor comments

THE LIMITATIONS OF A CLOSED SYSTEM

- ✗ Material produced by students and instructors in course does not carry over
 - + It's also not visible to those outside the course
- ✗ If one uses an outside tool (e.g. Google Docs) one has to leave the VBB world

WHAT I DO WITH VISTABB

- + Use it as it's intended - happily
 - × Courses
 - × New Faculty Community
- + Use workarounds to address the limitations
 - × How to carry over material
 - ★ External database + submit Info in VistaBB
 - × How to incorporate external tool
 - ★ Blog – via RSSInclude

SOME COURSES I TEACH

- ✖ AE-Design – AE-390, 391 – for Juniors
- ✖ New Faculty Community 2009-10
- ✖ Intelligent Buildings – AE-510 - Juniors & Seniors

AE DESIGN - AE-390, 3

Edit Formula for: Grade

To create a formula for a calculated column, use the functions, n within your formula, use parentheses. As you create your formula When you have finished creating your formula, click Save.

```
((([A1]+[A2]+[A6]+[A1aTwk]+[A2 tm]+[A3 Tm]+[A4 Tm]+[A5 Tm])*1)+([A3]+[A4]+[A5])*2)/9.25
```

- ✗ Dissemination
 - + Detailed syllabus and assignments
- ✗ Grading
 - + Gradebook
 - ✗ Spreadsheet to make updating cumulative grade easy
 - ✗ Download to calculate final grade
 - + Return detailed comments via attachment
- ✗ Use external Database for sharing URLs
 - + Have students look at past work for guidance
 - ✗ Change requirements somewhat each time

NEW FACULTY COMMUNITY 2009-10

- ✖ Discussions
- ✖ Blog via Blogger

- ✖ Sad Realities

- ✖ Faculty were generally “too busy” to use VistaBB
- ✖ Faculty don’t subscribe to Blog
- ✖ Change to Listserv worked better
 - ✖ Despite my opinion that Listserv is archaic



INTELLIGENT BUILDING – AE-510

- ✖ Dissemination & Grading
- ✖ Graded Discussion – Highly successful
 - + Use Grading Forms – splendid device
- ✖ Blog via [Blogger](#)

AE-510 HOME PAGE

Intelligent Building

Intelligent Buildings – AE-510 – Winter Term AY2009-10

Intelligent Building Blog

Week-10 Presentations - Plan
In the last class each group/individual will have prepared a presentation on their term project using PowerPoint. These presentations will be no more than eight minutes long and will have ...

Sensors Assignment Observations – A2b
Most of you did quite well on the second portion of this database assignment although there was some confusion about what I meant by "comments". Here are some observations.
[Comments Desired](#)

2/20/2010 The PowerPoint for Dr. Wen's talk is now in the Resources Folder

Updated: 2/20/10



[Assignments](#) ▾
Links to descriptions of Assignments



[Resources](#) ▾
Course Resources



[Syllabus](#) ▾
General Information about the course

MATRIX OF TOOLS

Tool	Learning Time	Time to use	Prime benefit	Where I Use
<u>External Database</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •5 min for students •30 min for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 min students •1 min grader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Carry over student work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Student projects
<u>Blog</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •5 min for students •1 hour for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 min students •Writing time for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Extended comments •Viewable by wider world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •General feedback •To make easier to follow
<u>RSSInclude</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 min for students •15 min for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 min students •0 min for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •See blog in VistaBB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increasing use in all courses
<u>Google Forms</u> – (Not directly VBB extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 min for students ½ hour for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •<5min (goal in design) •½ hour/form – typical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rapid feedback •Link from blog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Classes for formative assessment

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

✖ Continuity

- + Learn from colleagues in course (competition)
- + Learn from predecessors (scaffolding)

✖ Feedback

- + Extended comments addressing widespread issues
- + Share with colleagues

TOOLS

- ✕ Let's look at these tools in detail

BLOG

- ✕ Extended text that is:
 - + Formatted well
 - + Ordered
 - ✕ Time – newest first
 - + Searchable
 - ✕ Tags
 - ✕ Text
 - + Subscribable – via “reader”

RSS INCLUDE

- ✖ Service that creates “code” that will put blog in a box on any web page
- ✖ Easy & Free
- ✖ Use “Header” on VBB home page



ONLINE DB

- ✗ Use it like any website
 - + Students submit URL and description
 - + Students also submit URL as assignment in VBB
- ✗ Update it via secure administration
- ✗ Creating the DB took effort
 - + Initially I created it myself
 - + Drexel then decided to take it over – took several months

GOOGLE DOCS

- ✖ I'm pushing the limits to include it as a VBB expansion
 - + It's really separate
 - + I incorporate it by link from blog or home page
- ✖ How I use it
 - + Shared spreadsheet during class periods, edited by students from their computers
 - + Quick Surveys – primarily for formative info

MATRIX OF TOOLS

Tool	Learning Time	Time to use	Prime benefit	Where I Use
<u>External Database</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •5 min for students •30 min for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 min students •1 min grader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Carry over student work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Student projects
<u>Blog</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •5 min for students •1 hour for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 min students •Writing time for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Extended comments •Viewable by wider world 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •General feedback •To make easier to follow
<u>RSSInclude</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 min for students •15 min for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 min students •0 min for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •See blog in VistaBB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increasing use in all courses
<u>Google Forms</u> – (Not directly VBB extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 min for students ½ hour for me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •<5min (goal in design) •½ hour/form – typical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rapid feedback •Link from blog 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Classes for formative assessment

CONCLUSIONS

- ✖ Most of us can use these with minimal effort
 - + Database definitely takes longer
- ✖ Opens up VBB
 - + Material can carry over
 - + Material can be shared beyond a specific class
- ✖ It's fun