Introducing Canvas

We are transitioning to a new Learning Management System, Canvas, from Summer Term 1. The following highlights improvements in Canvas and outlines key Canvas terms to help you make the transition to the new platform.

New and improved features in Canvas

Canvas features	
Accessibility	Canvas is created with **accessibility** in mind. Canvas features are tested against screen reader applications prior to release. **Immersive Reader** is inbuilt to Canvas to enhance access.
Calendar including Scheduler	The **Calendar** in Canvas is a global feature to allow you to see all course assignments and events in one place. You can use the Calendar feed to import the calendar into your preferred personal calendar. Your Course Coordinator can also schedule appointment dates and times for you to book into.
Canvas Apps	The **Canvas Student App** allows you to access courses and groups using a mobile device. Canvas **provides a comparison** of functionality between the web version and app.
Consistent and linear learning	The learning experience in Canvas is customised by your Course Coordinator, however, the Canvas platform promotes consistent, linear learning experience. This means you will be able to go from course to course with them sharing a similar layout, saving you navigation time, and enhancing your learning experience.
Grades	Grades in Canvas enables access to the **'what-if'** feature. This allows you to enter hypothetical grades for assignments. The Canvas default in **Grades** is to calculate a running total based on your graded assignments only. In the Canvas web version, you can switch this off to calculate a predicted running overall grade including assignments you have not completed. Please note, your final grades are confirmed in your myHub at the fully graded date.
Help	**Canvas community** has a range of guides to assist you in using Canvas. Help is also embedded within Canvas to help navigate through the Canvas features.
Portfolium	Canvas' **Portfolium** allows you to showcase education, volunteering, and work accomplishments. You can organise and display educational and professional achievements, link your Portfolium with Canvas, and pull in assignments, create projects, and collaborate with other users. Access Portfolium through the 'Folio' link via your Account in the Global Navigation.

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Want to find out more?
Visit <u>UON students Canvas page</u>
or <u>Canvas Community site</u>

Key Canvas Terms

Canvas Terms	Descriptions
Announcements	Here you will find updates posted by your teaching staff regarding your course.
Assignment/ assessment	Includes quizzes, graded discussions, and online submissions. Assignments can be assigned to everyone or differentiated by section or user.
Canvas Community	An online community of Canvas users. Contains a range of user guides for using Canvas.
Calendar	The calendar is where you can access upcoming key events. This could include assessment due dates, and any appointments or events your Course Coordinator makes available. You are also able to add in your own 'event' and 'my to do'.
Course	The University's term for 'course' means the same in Canvas.
Courses via global navigation	On this tab you can find a quick layout of your courses.
Course contacts	Here you will find your teaching staffs contact details
Course readings	Course readings contains a list of readings you will need to review within your course.
Course Navigation	A series of links on the left side of the screen when you are in your course. Course Coordinators set what is available.
Dashboard	The Canvas Dashboard is where you land when you log into Canvas. This shows all courses and your to do items.
Discussions	Discussions can be graded or ungraded. They provide a platform for you to interact with your fellow students and instructors.
Global Navigation	Positioned on the left-hand side of the screen consistently and contains the common features for you to navigate to.
Grades	Access via 'Grades in the course navigation, this will contain grades for your individual assessments as well as enabling the **What-if grade**. The Canvas default in **Grades** will calculate a running total based on graded assignments only. In the Canvas web version, you can switch this off to calculate a running total including the assignments you have not completed. Please note, your final grades are confirmed in your myHub at the fully graded date.
Groups	Groups are used in some courses as a collaborative tool so you can work within a group on assignments.
Immersive Reader	The built in Immersive Reader improves accessibility, improving reading and comprehension
Inbox	Here you can send and receive messages between other Canvas users, including your instructors and fellow students.

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Key Canvas terms

Canvas Terms	Descriptions
Module	A module is a container that organises content. Modules promote the linear format of learning in Canvas by grouping content into weeks or topics.
Need Help?	The Need Help? in your course homepage is where you will find access to university resources to assist your studies.
Notifications	Notifications can be set via your Account in your global navigation menu to determine what notifications you receive for your courses.
Page	Pages store content. Some Pages can be enabled by the Course Coordinator for you to edit.
Panopto	The Panopto link is a folder which contains course videos. You can use Panopto if you have a video assignment.
Rubrics	Your instructor may include a rubric as part of your assignment. Rubrics are criteria that your instructor will use to grade your assignment. You can use the rubric to evaluate your own work.
What-if Grades	What if grades allow you to calculate your total grade by entering hypothetical grades for assignments.
Zoom	The zoom link provides access to scheduled zooms within your course.

Find out more:

If you're keen to learn more about Canvas, there are a range of **student guides, videos and resources** available on the **Canvas Community**.

When you are enrolled in Canvas there will be help available as well as a Canvas passport course to take you through everything you need to know about Canvas.

The **UON students Canvas page** also provides information for students specific to students enrolled at the University of Newcastle.

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