

CourseLink Tools: Groups and Discussions | Transcript Text | Remote Teaching Support W21

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This video will introduce you to collaborative tools on CourseLink, such as groups and discussions.

The groups tool allows students to interact in smaller work environments where they can discuss and collaborate with their peers. Students are often more inclined to participate in these smaller groups than in a lecture, which is a huge benefit of the tool. Groups can contain up to 200 users and there is no limit to the number of groups in one course.

Categories can be created under which certain groups can be classified. Discussion forums and locker areas can be set up to allow for further communication among students, and Dropbox folders can be set up for assignment submission. Subgroups can be created to divide bigger groups into smaller ones if need be. Students can be graded individually or as a group. Groups are assigned based on different criteria and enrolment types.

The discussions tool encourages students to share their ideas amongst themselves, while comparing and commenting on each other's thoughts. Forums and related topics can be created where students can post their work and respond to others' work. Rubrics and grade items can be attached to these discussions in the gradebook to help assess students. Students' posts can also be assessed directly within the thread. There is an option for private, single user groups with restricted discussion areas for students to journal, if that is something that would be beneficial for your course.

Faculty and students can subscribe to a forum or topic to stay up to date with posts. When setting up discussions, availability windows can be set so students can either post at any time or within a specific timeframe. Forums can also be restricted to certain groups so that only that group can see it.

Groups and discussions are a great way to stimulate conversations within your course. If this is something you think would enhance your course, consider adding a space for students to discuss with their peers.

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