OLTD 504 NON LMS BUILD

In the assignment, we have been asked to build a course without the assistance of a LMS like Moodle or Canvas. The goal is to cover all the areas that are inside a traditional LMS by using Web 2.0 tools. Incorporating several different tools can achieve the same results as using a single LMS.

Many of the etools listed below can overlap and be found in different categories. For instance, Google slides can be used for presenting content to students and it can be used as a tool by students to collaborate on a project. The list of tools mentioned below is not exhaustive and I am sure it will change and evolve as my knowledge of Web 2.0 grows.

Below is a list of the main areas we are to cover inside of my LMS build
- Community (learning network)
- Content
- Assessment
- Communication (student-student, student-teacher, student-world?)
- Collaboration (wikis, group work...)

Community

Google+	Building community is essential in any type of course, be it online or face to face. There are several different types of interactions that take place between the individuals inside of a particular course.
	I am new to using Google+ Community but over the last two courses I have seen the effectiveness of having a way to connect to individuals inside of a cohort. It has helped build personal relationships; it has severed as a help line and a way to share information and ideas. I think it's helpful to provide such a platform for classmates to partake but it would be up to the members to how much they would participate.
	Other advantages of Google + Communities are that they are free, easy to set up by the administrator, can be made private for classrooms and are user friendly. I enjoyed using this format for discussion forms over the D2L site. It was much more attractive, easier to update from my phone and adding in websites and video to the posts was seamless.

Communication

Student to student interactions	
Google+ Community	Google+ Communities are a great way to share information back and forth amongst students. Once the community is set up, it's as easy as clicking a button to join. I found that this method was easier and more convenient than trying to get hold of group members for planning or getting assistance by just sending a post to the group. Once you have put fellow student into your 'circle' it then simple to have private posts with individual group members.
Student to teacher interactions	
Blackboard Collaborative	Blackboard has been a useful tool for our courses and I can see myself using it with my students. I provides away to present information to an entire class at one time in a synchronous sessions. It also allows for student interaction with each other and with the instructor. There are pull-out rooms for group discussion and group planning. There have been some technical issues but if things are kept simple, the session usually runs smoothly.
Gmail	Email is also a handy tool to use for a non LMS build. It allows for more private conversations between the instructor and the student. It also allows for clarification of instruction and feedback on assignments. Gmail is very convenient because it then opens the door to the use of many Google applications that can be used in other areas of the course. Once you have a Gmail account, you then have access to other Google applications such as slides, sheets and documents.
Student to world	

Search engines 	Web browsers open the door to the world. Students are familiar with them already and they are a variety of different search engines out there with advantages and disadvantages to them. This just seems like a 'gimme' that this would be an etool used by all teachers. The internet is a portal to all other forms of online learning and is essential to online education.
YouTube 	YouTube is another tool that seems to be used by everyone every day. Teachers constantly use it to enhance lessons by inserting quick videos in to enhance lessons. Students are using YouTube as a way to submit video and audio files that they have created for a class. YouTube serves many purposes for students: a tutor, way to share video files and a submission box for assignments.

Content

Dashboard- Weebly 	Students would land first a Weebly website. These are easy to build and maintain. They are adaptable; it simple to add in pages and buttons to link to other areas in the web. Weebly have a simple look to them so that they would not be overwhelming to new students to online course yet they allow the user to build vast websites.
Google slides/doc 	I can see myself using Google slides as a way to put slideshows into my course. Google doc would also be a useful tool to allow documents to be accessed by students. Both are easy to set up and

	use. Students could receive information from the instructor but these tools are also powerful ones for collaboration, filing sharing and handing in assignments.
Calendar- Google calendar 	Keeping students informed of deadlines and providing a visual of this information is key to ensuring that students are staying informed of the events inside of the course. Google has many tools that are useful for sharing information. In creating my LMS toolkit, I have already mentioned several Google applications. It seems beneficial to keep my students inside of the same suit of apps if possible. Using Google calendar seems like a natural fit. Another advantage of Google calendar is that it can be synched to smart phones for those that like that option.

Assessment

Grade book- Checkmymark 	This is a web based grade book program that I currently use at my school. It's straight forward for entering students, creating classes and entering marks. It also has an email option inside of the program that allows you to send progress reports and missing work reports to students and/or parents. This tool is fairly easy to use and provides the basics needed for reporting assessment by numerical grade reporting or by using a scale grading system.
Eportfolio- DoYouBuzz 	This etool is one that I found while we were creating the LMS Wiki. It can be used to create resumes or eportfolio. I liked the visual appeal of this program and the ease of use. Students would be engaged in creating a dynamic and

	visually stunning collection of their personal tasks and information.
Quizzing socrative	I would most likely use a site called Socrative . I was introduced to this site in a previous class. It is simple to set up and can be used as a surveying tool or quizzing tool. Students don't need to make an account to partake in the task and Socrative is available on any devise. Students can use their phones and don't necessarily need to be at a desktop computer. Setting up the quizzes is simple and the platform is attractive for students to use.
Student feedback/Surveying- Fluid Surveys **Fluid**Surveys™	Fluid Survey is a Canadian based website that allows you to create and display a variety of different types of surveys. The program is free and easy to use. At the end of collecting the data, chart and graphs can be easily made within the site. Obtaining feedback is just as important as calculating a grade for a student. I need feedback as what was successful and what wasn't. Teaching needs to constantly evolve and there's no better place than to get some information from your students.

Collaboration

Google docs	Google offers a suite of apps that allow students to collaborate and create projects together. They can access document, slides and spreadsheets

Google Drive Docs Sheets Slides	which can be in turn, used for a variety of different uses in a multitude of different courses.
Wikispace wikispaces wikis for everyone	Great place for students to collaborate and peer edit work. Wikis allow editing from multiple different users and can be made private for classroom use. There are many ways that wikis can be incorporated into a course.
Peer help-Skype	A very useful tool that allows students to video conference, call each other or instant message each other. Free to use. Skype can be downloaded from the web and accessed at any app store to be used on a smart phone. This program allows students to connect with each other in what every format they desire. It's great for planning and organizing group work when you need a 5 minute conversation with someone to figure out the last minute details. Sign up is quick and individuals are asked to join a conversation so that unknown callers can be blocked.

At first when I started using Moodle, I was quickly frustrated with the LMS because it was clunky, had too many fields to figure out and wasn't visually appealing. I couldn't wait to move onto the non LMS build, thinking that it would just be easier using web tools that I am more familiar with. Now that I look at the long list above, I am not sure that moving away from a LMS is the best solution. The number of tools that are required to meet the needs of the instructor and the student seems immense.