



OLA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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COURSE SPOTLIGHTS

ENGL 191 - Communication in the Engineering Profession

This week, I have been developing a lesson which helps engineering students create and organize their Gantt Charts. As a dynamic project management tool, Gantt Charts can be customized for any project. Engineers can use Gantt Charts as an effective way to communicate their project progress and plan for milestones or subtasks with the team. - **Jessica Macri**



ENGL 109 - Introduction to Academic Writing

I have been helping construct a new version of ENGL 109 online by reviewing current course materials. Additionally, I have been creating learning activities to help students solidify their knowledge. This has been a very insightful experience and I have gained new perspectives on planning and constructing a course! - **Christina Piruchta**

RENSION UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

As an OLA for Renison's English Language Studies (ELS) department, I have been working with courses such as ELS and English for Multilingual Speakers (EMLS). So far, I have had the opportunity to work on a diverse mix of projects involving LEARN, researching online tools for teaching, and troubleshooting problems for instructors. I have really enjoyed my work as an OLA since this experience has opened my eyes to all the work that goes into online courses. - **Hannah Fritchley**

RECORDING VIDEO LECTURES

OLAs are trained in video recording softwares such as Zoom, WebEx, and Bongo. Our team has researched various softwares to support instructors in providing students with a seamless online learning experience. Reach out to an OLA if you have questions related to video recording.

Recording Lectures on Zoom

Video lectures and slideshow presentations are great vehicles for remote teaching. However, they can often be difficult to create. Pre-recording lectures on Zoom is an easy way to make excellent content that does not require excessive time or technical knowledge. **Click here for a video tutorial, and click here for written instructions.**

Compressing Zoom Files on HandBrake

HandBrake is a free, downloadable tool which allows users to compress the size of a video. This feature is especially useful when recording lectures on Zoom or Bongo. Handbrake can also convert video formats and supports work on most multimedia files and DVD or BluRay sources that do not have copy protections. **Find out more information on how to use HandBrake by clicking here. Download HandBrake here.**

Alternative Lecture Recording Softwares

Alternative softwares that support video lecture recordings include Bongo and WebEx. Bongo is an excellent tool for recording lectures, creating video assignments, and establishing a seamless virtual classroom environment. Instructors can use this tool to pre-record a lecture on screen or by using a webcam. **Find out more information about Bongo by clicking here.** WebEx is a video conferencing software that allows instructors to record screen activity for lectures. **Find out more information about WebEx by clicking here.**

OLA TIDBIT

OLA Tidbit: User Experience

Since becoming an OLA, my appreciation for user experience has increased. While navigating LEARN as a student, I took for granted that courses would have a clean layout. Now, I realize that well-structured courses do not simply spring into being. Rather, they are meticulously crafted. The design choices that OLAs and instructors make about where to link assignments and list due dates appear small. However, viewed collectively, such choices are essential to ensuring that students have a good user experience while learning remotely. - **Maanasa Rajaguru**

