



# **Making Groups Work**

**Technology and Cooperative Learning**

**A CIRT-OFE Cooperative Event**

“Many hands make light work”



# “Too many cooks spoil the broth”



# Value of Group Work



- Uri Treisman, University of California, Berkeley
- High failure rates of minority students in undergraduate calculus courses
- Students were highly motivated
- Field Study – followed African-American and Chinese students for 2 weeks
- Separation of Academic and Social Lives

# Working as a Group



- Individual output declines on tasks in which the specific performance of any one individual cannot be determined  
Ringelmann (1880s)
- Social Loafing – a group-produced reduction in individual output on tasks in which contributions are pooled
  - Example: Team Projects

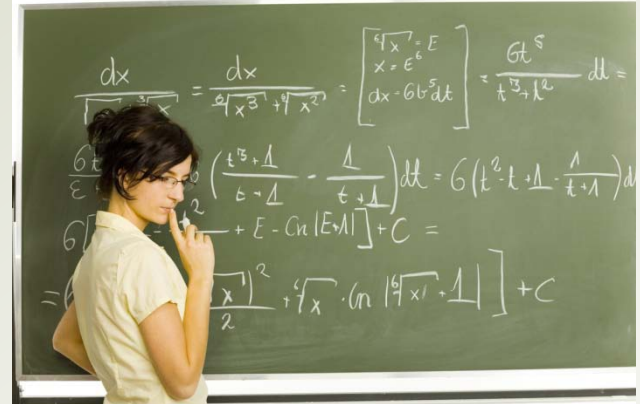
# Working as a Group



- Social Loafing is Less Likely to Occur When:
  - People believe that their own performances can be identified and thus evaluated
  - The task is important or meaningful to those performing it
  - People believe that their own efforts are necessary for a successful outcome
  - The group expects to be punished for poor performance
  - The group is small
  - The group is cohesive

# Other Considerations

- Assigning Groups
- When there is inconsistency in ratings?
- Communication is key
- Empower students to solve problems in their groups
- Consider providing extra points for group success



# BLACKBOARD GROUP CREATION

## × Groups in Blackboard

- + Single Groups

- + Group Sets

  - multiple groups with same characteristics

## × Group Enrollment

- + Manual Enrollment

  - one student at a time

- + Random Enrollment (group sets only)

- + Self Enrollment (sign ups)



# BLACKBOARD GROUPS:

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- ✘ Share a group tool set:
  - + Discussion Board, File Exchange, Email, Tasks, Collaboration (text chat)
- ✘ Are defined for use in other tools:  
Blogs, Wikis, Discussion Board, Chat
- ✘ Can submit 'Assignments'

# BLOGS & WIKIS IN BLACKBOARD

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## × Blogs

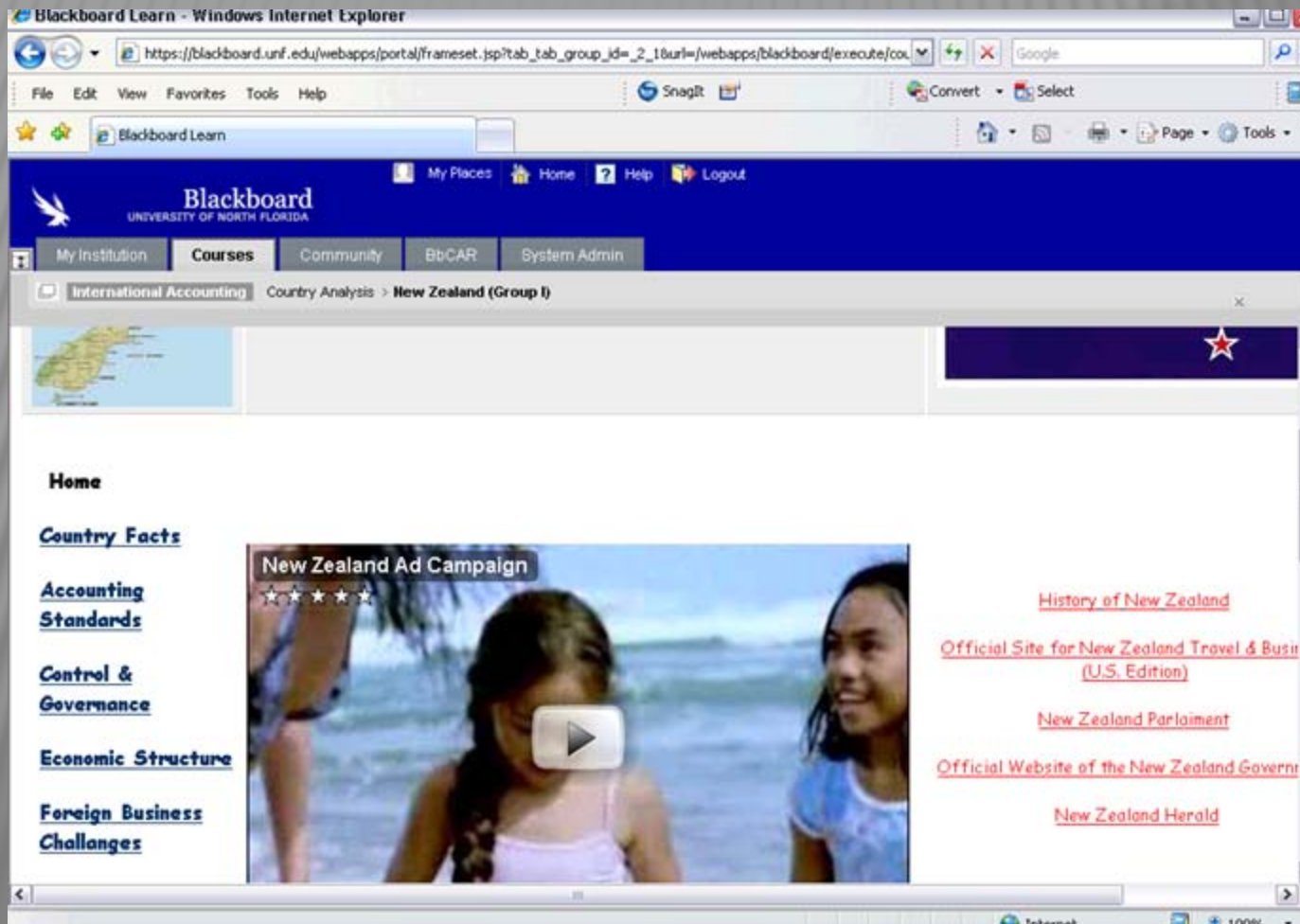
Group blogs have multiple authors who can see one another's posts. Commenting may be permitted.

## × Wikis

The members of a group wiki can collectively add and edit content to one or more pages.

# BB WIKI EXAMPLE

## ✘ International Accounting Country Analysis



The screenshot shows a Blackboard Learn interface for a course titled "International Accounting". The course is organized into a "Country Analysis" section, with a sub-section for "New Zealand (Group I)".

The page features a navigation menu with options: My Institution, Courses, Community, BbCAR, and System Admin. The current page is titled "International Accounting" and "Country Analysis > New Zealand (Group I)".

Key elements on the page include:

- A map of New Zealand in the top left corner.
- A video player titled "New Zealand Ad Campaign" with a play button and a star rating of four stars.
- A list of links on the left side: [Home](#), [Country Facts](#), [Accounting Standards](#), [Control & Governance](#), [Economic Structure](#), and [Foreign Business Challenges](#).
- A list of links on the right side: [History of New Zealand](#), [Official Site for New Zealand Travel & Business \(U.S. Edition\)](#), [New Zealand Parliament](#), [Official Website of the New Zealand Government](#), and [New Zealand Herald](#).

# BEYOND BLACKBOARD

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- × **Elluminate/vRooms**

Synchronous collaboration tool with white board, chat, audio/video, application sharing and much more. <http://lluminate.com>

- × **dim dim**

Deliver synchronized live presentations, whiteboards and web pages while sharing voice and video over the internet -free account allows you to have up to 20 people.

<http://www.dimdim.com/>

- × **Google Docs**

Create and edit web-based documents, spreadsheets, forms and presentations from any computer with view and edit controls. <http://docs.google.com>

Example: [MBA Study Group Schedule](#)

- × **Google Sites**

Create and share content-rich webpages with view and edit controls.

<http://sites.google.com>

Example: [Software development project](#)

- × **Blogger**

Create team blogs with text ,photos and video. Entries are chronological with author noted.

[www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)

Example: [Duke Campus Art](#)

# BEYOND BLACKBOARD

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- × **Google Mapping Mashups**

Compile data onto a map with markers, text, pictures, audio, video, or online resources.

<http://maps.google.com/support>

Examples: [Gulla Geechee Community](#) [Obama Campaign](#)

- × **Drop.io**

Chat and share images, video, audio, documents and other digital content through unique, user-created and controlled sharing points called 'drops.' <http://drop.io>

- × **MindMeister**

Online mind-mapping software Simultaneously work on maps with others and see changes as they happen. <http://www.mindmeister.com>

Example: [Best Online Collaborative Tools '09](#)

- × And many more.....