

Creating a Course Wiki in Blackboard

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Creating a Wiki

Course Wikis are created by the instructor and any course member can add pages, unless the instructor intends to be the sole author and use the Wiki as course content. Wikis can also be added to a Group for Group members to use.

Be sure Edit Mode is in the On position so that you see all the instructor functions.

QUICK STEPS: creating a Course Wiki

1. In the **Control Panel**, expand the **Course Tools** section and select **Wikis**.
2. On the **Wikis** listing page, click **Create Wiki** on the Action Bar.
3. On the **Create Wiki** page, type a Wiki Name.
4. Type optional instructions for the Wiki. Format the text and add images, links, multimedia, mashups, and attachments using the functions in the Text Editor, if you want. Attachments added using the Text Editor can be launched in a new window and have alternative text added to describe the attachment.
5. Select the Yes option to make the Wiki available to users.
6. Use the Display After; and Display Until: date and time fields to limit availability of the Wiki. Select the check boxes in order to enable the date and time selections in each field.
7. Under Wiki Participation, select the Student Access option: Closed to Editing, or Open to Editing, depending on whether you want students to edit the wiki or not.

8. Select No grading or the Grade option, and type the number of Points possible if it is to be graded.
9. Click Submit.

Creating a Wiki Page

Only instructors can create wiki topics. The wiki topics appear in alphabetical order on the **Wikis** listing page.

QUICK STEPS: Creating a Wiki Page

1. On the **Wikis** listing page, select a wiki title. Students can see if the wikis are for the course or for a group.

Wikis
Case Study 1 Type: Course Last Modified Date: 9/6/12 3:49 PM
Glossary Type: Course Last Modified Date: 9/6/12 3:46 PM
Group Geo Type: Group Last Modified Date: 9/9/12 9:49 PM
Resources Collection Type: Course Last Modified Date: 9/25/12 11:04 AM

2. On the wiki's topic page, click **Create Wiki Page** on the action bar.



3. On the **Create Wiki Page**, type a **Name** for the wiki page.

- Type text in the **Content** box. Optionally, format the text and include images, links, multimedia, mashups, and attachments using the functions in the content editor.
- Click **Submit**.

Create Wiki Page

Instructions
Graded Course Wiki for Chapter 3.

* Indicates a required field.

Cancel Submit

1. Wiki Page Content

* Name **3** What is Environmental

Content

Rich text editor toolbar with a circled '4' over the 'Mashups' button.

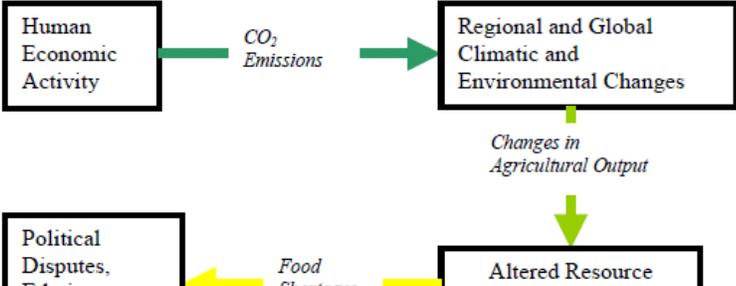
The environment is the planetary support system and all human enterprises depend upon it. If political, social, cultural, religious, and most importantly economic systems are to remain secure and viable, the environment must also remain secure and viable. This makes global environmental conditions a legitimate national security concern for our planet.



Figure 1.1

Environmental security (or ecological security) reflects the ability of a nation or a society to withstand environmental asset scarcity, environmental risks or adverse changes, or environment-related tensions or conflicts. The chart below illustrates the potential for economic activity to cause environmental changes that lead to conflicts.

The Institute for *Environmental Security* is an environmental think-tank headquartered in The Hague, in order to increase political attention to environmental security as a means to help safeguard essential conditions for peace and sustainable development.



```

graph TD
    A[Human Economic Activity] -- "CO2 Emissions" --> B[Regional and Global Climatic and Environmental Changes]
    B -- "Changes in Agricultural Output" --> C[Altered Resource]
    C -- "Food Shortages" --> D[Political Disputes, Ethnic Conflicts]
  
```

Using the functions in the content editor, students can include text, images, links, multimedia, mashups, attachments, and link to other wiki pages when creating or editing a wiki page. Images users attach using **Insert/Edit Image** in the content editor appear directly on the wiki page. Students are able to upload images from their computers only.

Elements of a Wiki Page

A wiki page is divided into two main sections. When you access a wiki, the home page appears in the content frame. The **Instructions** appear only with the home page. If no home page exists, the first course member to access the wiki creates it.

The screenshot shows a wiki page interface. At the top, there is a header bar with 'Case Study 1' on the left and a 'My Contribution' button on the right, labeled with a blue circle 'F'. Below the header is a dark bar with 'Create Wiki Page' on the left and 'My Contribution' on the right. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains the title 'Energy Security: Nuclear' with a blue circle 'A' next to it. Below the title is a 'Created By' and 'last modified by' section, followed by a paragraph of text. At the bottom of this column is a 'Link to Military Resources' and a 'Comments: 1' section with a blue circle 'C' next to it. The right column contains an 'About This Wiki' section with statistics and a 'Case Study 1' section with a list of wiki pages. A blue circle 'B' is next to the 'Edit Wiki Content' button, and a blue circle 'E' is next to the 'About This Wiki' section. A blue circle 'D' is next to the 'Comment' button.

- After a user submits a wiki page, it appears in the content frame. Following the wiki page title, view creation and modification information.
- If you enabled editing, click **Edit Wiki Content** to revise the page. In the side panel, users can also use each page's contextual menu and select **Edit**. You can disable the editing function when it is time to grade wiki pages or if you want to preserve the content.
- Following the page contents, a student can see if course members made comments. Click the link to view comments.
- Click **Comment** to make a comment on any wiki page, including your own.
- In the side panel, the **About This Wiki** section provides information about the wiki, such as total number of pages and comments, and the creation date. The next section includes the titles of the wiki pages and each has a contextual menu. The home page appears first and other wiki pages are listed in alphabetical order. You can expand and collapse sections in the side panel using the arrow next to the section title.
- Students can view their contributions to the wiki by clicking **My Contribution** on the action bar. Students only see their own contributions. This is discussed later in the manual.

A student can create another wiki page for this topic at any time.

Commenting on Wiki Pages

Because wikis are meant to be collaborative, students can comment on one another's course wiki pages. By default, all course members can read group wikis, but you must be a member of the group to comment on a group wiki page. You can change the default setting to allow only group members to view a group wiki.

QUICK STEPS: Commenting on Wiki Pages

1. Access a wiki.
2. On the wiki topic page, select a page to view in the side panel. The wiki page opens in the content frame.
3. Click **Comment** following the user's entry.
4. Type your comments in the **Comment** box. You can add up to 2,000-characters.
5. Click spell check at the bottom of the **Comment** box to check the spelling of the content before continuing.
6. Click **Add**. Click the **Comments** link below the entry to view your comment.

The screenshot shows a Blackboard Wiki page titled "Case Study 1". The page content includes the title "Energy Security: Nuclear", a "Create Wiki Page" button, and a "My Contribution" button. The main content area displays the text: "Created By Dwight Paul on Wednesday, December 2, 2012 7:10:31 PM EST last modified by Dwight Paul on Wednesday, December 2, 2012 7:14:01 PM EST". Below this is a paragraph of text: "If the United States decides to decrease its dependence on Middle East oil, the current administration is likely to turn to nuclear power to make up the shortfall. This presents another set of security concerns that will affect the military's mission. Increased reliance on nuclear power means a greater chance of diversion of fissile material by nonnuclear states or terrorists. To prevent this, the armed forces will undoubtedly be called upon to provide secure escort for nuclear materials. In addition, as reactors become more critical to the nation's power grid, they themselves become more attractive as terror targets and will require increased National Guard protection." A link "Link to Military Resources" is provided. Below the text is a "Comments: 1" section with a "Comment" button. A comment box contains the text: "Yes, this definitely has to be one of our plans. I'm going to do some research right now and then see if I can articulate what we want to hit on." A "Comment" button is next to the text. Below the comment box is a "Cancel" button and an "Add" button. A side panel on the right shows "About This Wiki" with statistics: "Number of Wiki Pages: 8", "Number of Comments: 1", and "Creation Date: 12/1/12 12:44 PM". Below this is a "Case Study 1" section with a list of pages: "Home Page: Environmental Security", "Accountability vs. Law", "Energy Security: Nuclear", "Military force not an option", "Military Resources", "Plausible Solution", "The Issue", and "What is Environmental Security?". The "Energy Security: Nuclear" page is highlighted with a blue circle and a "2" in a blue circle. The "Comment" button is highlighted with a blue circle and a "3" in a blue circle. The "Add" button is highlighted with a blue circle and a "4" in a blue circle. The comment text is highlighted with a blue circle and a "4" in a blue circle.

Editing Wiki Pages

Any course member can edit a course wiki page and any group member can edit a group wiki page, unless you have disabled this function. For example, you might disable editing when it is time to grade the wiki pages. However, you can still edit student pages. All course members, including instructors, edit in the same way.

When a user is editing a wiki page, it is locked to prevent others from editing the same page. Users are informed that another user is currently editing the page.

QUICK STEPS: Editing Wiki Pages

1. Access the wiki. The wiki topic page appears.
2. Select the page to review and edit. The wiki page opens in the content frame.
3. In the side panel, access the contextual menu and select **Edit** -OR- click **Edit Wiki Content** next to the page's title in the content frame.
4. On the **Edit Wiki Page**, you can change the name and content of the page.
5. Click **Submit**.

Case Study 1

Create Wiki Page My Contribution

The Issue Edit Wiki Content

Created By Mei Wong on Tuesday, December 1, 2012 9:01:35 AM EST
last modified by Bruce Lopez on Wednesday, December 2, 2012 6:06:27 PM EST

The security of individuals, communities, nations, and the entire global community is increasingly jeopardized by unpremeditated, non-military environmental threats. These threats are self-generated: we perpetrate them on ourselves, by fouling our air and water, and overharvesting our land. These threats are not felt equally around the world. Southern countries face severe problems from desertification, while northern industrial countries deal with acid rain, and polar regions see large depositions of persistent organic chemical pollutants. Climate change will cause uneven effects over the entire globe for the next fifty to 100 years, with some countries benefiting and others suffering.

Since 1998, the U.S. Global Change Research Program has been publishing the work of hundreds of scientists around the country who have been analyzing the effects of climate change on nineteen regions and five sectors of the United States, and while their findings vary from report to report, they have consistently found that changes in ambient air temperature will lead to changes in precipitation and weather patterns, which will in turn lead to further, higher-order changes.

Climate change will mean more natural disasters as a result of shifting weather and precipitation patterns. The Midwest will face a greater risk of tornadoes and riverine floods, the Gulf Coast and other shorelines will face a greater risk of high seas and hurricanes, and (due to changes in amount and timing of precipitation) the West will face greater risk of wildfires. These disasters will change the readiness of the military by forcing the reallocation of troops away from combat operations toward disaster relief.

Comments: 1 Comment

About This Wiki
Number of Wiki Pages: 8
Number of Comments: 3
Creation Date: 12/1/12 12:44 PM

Case Study 1
Home Page: Environmental Security
Accountability vs. Law
Energy Security: Nuclear
Military force not an option
Military Resources
Plausible Solution
The Issue

Contextual Menu:
Edit
History

