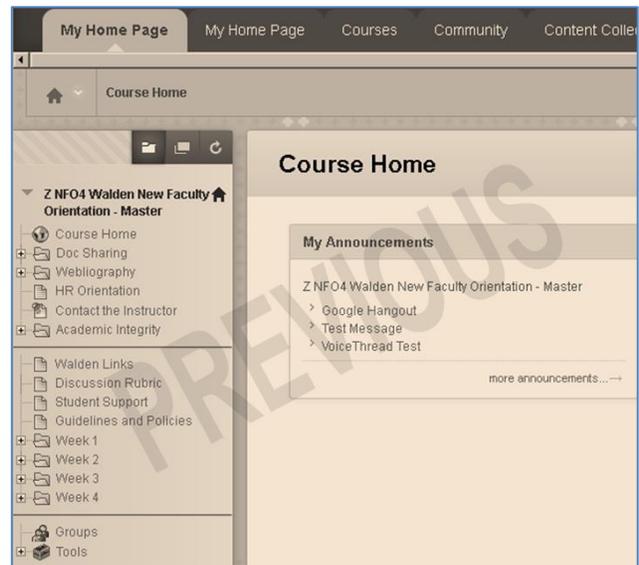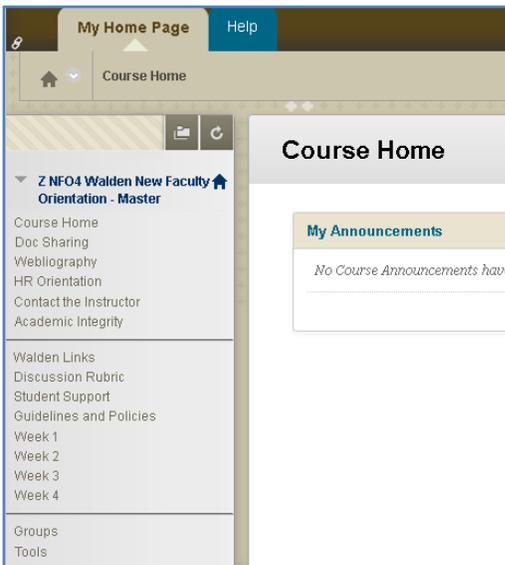# Blackboard Help Topic

## Updated Course Menu, Quicklinks

## Walden 2015

Updated January 8, 2015

This Blackboard help topic describes the new, streamlined Course Menu, and the Quicklinks Button.
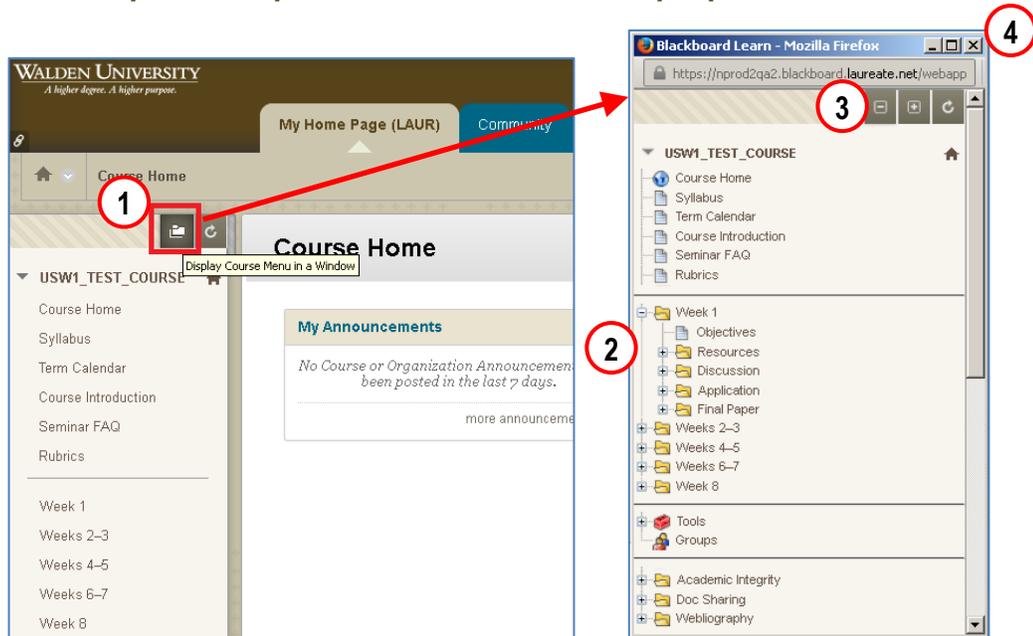


A new, "cleaner" and modernized course menu (left) replaces the expandable menus and icons from the previous version of the Course Menu (right).

## Summary:

- In keeping with Blackboard's efforts to provide a cleaner, modernized interface, the Course Menu has been simplified, with some existing features now hidden from view.
- Users can reveal an expandable folder view of the Course menu by opening the menu in a new window.
- A new "QuickLinks" (🔗) feature has been added to the upper-left corner of the Blackboard interface; unfortunately, our Walden course design currently does not yet take full advantage of QuickLinks. For now, the QuickLinks feature can be ignored.

# Open an Expandable Course Menu Pop-Up Window



Some users may prefer the icons and expandable folders
from the previous version of the Blackboard Course Menu.

A button at the top of the new Course Menu (left) will open
a pop-up window (right) which contains an old-style Course Menu.

---

1. Click the "Display Course Menu in a Window" button to open a detailed copy of the Course Menu in a pop-up window.

   The pop-up window will include icons for items in the Course Menus, and expandable folders.

2. Expand or Collapse the folder menus using the small + and - icons to the left of folders in the pop-up window:
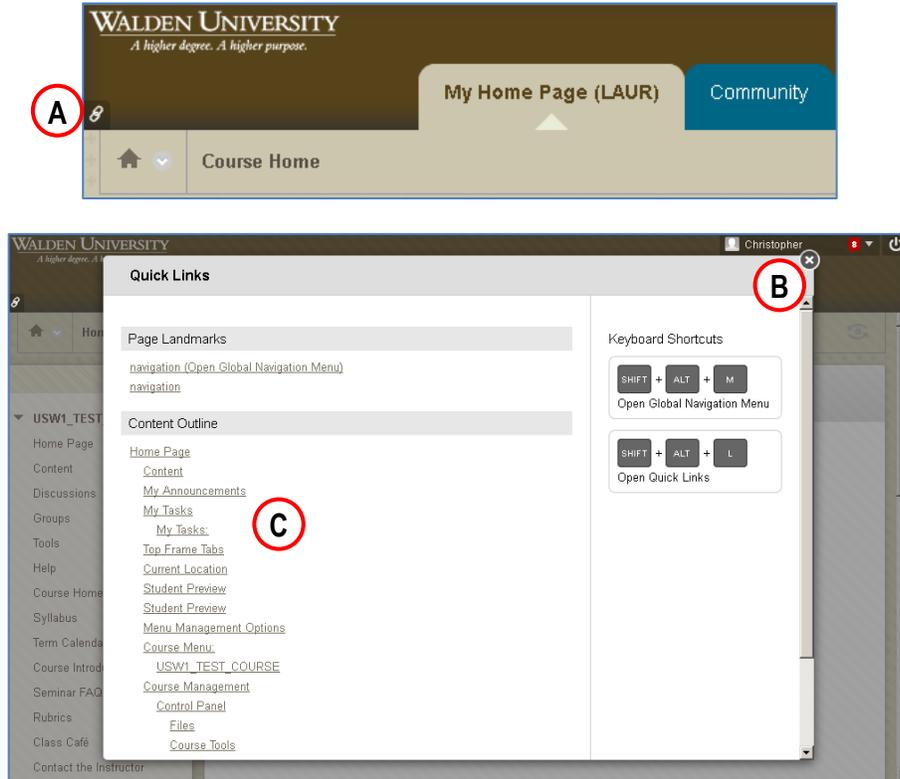
3. If desired, you can Expand All menus (and Collapse All menus) using the large – and + buttons at the top of the pop-up window.

4. You can close the pop-up window at any time by clicking the window's close button.

# Notes on the new QuickLinks Feature for 2015 Terms



---

A.   The QuickLinks button, marked with a chain-link icon, is located near the upper-left corner of Blackboard.

B.   For 2015 terms, the QuickLinks page can generally be ignored. If you open it by mistake, you can click the circular X icon in the upper-right corner to close the QuickLinks "pop-up".

C.   The QuickLinks "Content Outline" feature is intended to be an easy and accessible way of navigating through the classroom, providing a convenient list of links available on the page the Quicklinks menu was opened from, as well as a list of keyboard shortcuts used to access or exit certain Blackboard pages and tools.

Many Blackboard features (such as folders, assignments, quizzes) already work well with Quicklinks.

Unfortunately, some of our Walden University course content (such as some Walden course Resources) has not yet been adapted to take advantage of the QuickLinks feature, and links to such content may be absent from the Quicklinks page.

We are researching ways to take advantage of QuickLinks in our classroom design in upcoming terms, but for now, we recommend ignoring the Quicklinks feature.

# FAQs, Tips, and Reminders

---

**Q:** Why was the Blackboard Course Menu changed?

**A:** Blackboard has made this and similar changes in response to customer suggestions about the distracting amount of unused (or rarely-used) information, links, menus, buttons, and other features visible in the Blackboard classroom. In response and in line with the cleaner, modernized Web 2.0 aesthetic, various rarely-used tools and buttons have been either hidden until the mouse pointer is nearby, or moved off the main page out of the way.

In the case of the Course Menu, Course Menu icons and expandable folders (which aren't used by most Blackboard users) have not been removed completely, they've simply been hidden away on a pop-up window, where they can be accessed as desired by those who do use them, leaving a neater, cleaner, modernized appearance to the Blackboard classroom.

**Q:** Nothing happens when I click the "Display Course Menu in a Window" button to view the detailed Course Menu pop-up window! What could have gone wrong?

**A:** The detailed Course Menu opens in a separate pop-up window. If you have a pop-up blocker installed and active on your computer, the blocker may be preventing the window from opening. We do not recommend using a pop-up blocker while accessing your Walden classroom.

It's also possible the new window may have opened successfully, but has somehow become hidden behind the current window; you can try minimizing your current browser window to see if the Menu can be found behind it. You can also use task-switching features to switch to other open windows (Windows users can try ALT+tab, for example; Mac users can try Command+tab).

**Q:** Why doesn't the QuickLinks feature work with all Walden content yet?

**A:** QuickLinks works well with links to content based in Blackboard. Unfortunately, some Walden content (such as course resources) is currently based in Walden sites located outside of Blackboard, where the QuickLinks feature cannot see it; links to such content may be missing from the Quicklinks page. QuickLinks is still a new feature, and we are still researching the best way to take full advantage of it in our current course design.