



**SRSU Office of Academic Affairs**  
**Fall 2023**  
**Virtual Brown Bag Event**

**WHAT:** Fall 2023 SRSU Instructional Services at SRSU Update

**WHEN:** Friday, November 17th, 2023 from Noon to 1:00pm





## Welcome & Opening

**Dr. Laura Payne**

Dean of Jimmy D. Case College (LASS)  
and Dean of Graduate Studies and Online Education  
(...and some general housekeeping with Tim before  
we get started...)



# TSUS Shared Services Partnership

Sul Ross State University and Sam Houston State University

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## SHSU Online Team



**Dr. Ruth Chisum** – Assistant Vice President for Online Operations

**Ricki Lee Hodges Neri** – TSUS Blackboard Master Administrator

**Ray Scheel** – Associate Director for Course Development

**Jacob Spradlin** - Director of Online Instructional Development and Support

**Daniel Walker** - Director for Online Technology Support Operations

**Rachel Scherer** - Senior Instructional Designer

**\*\*Jorge Luna – Instructional Designer to Sul Ross State University\*\***

## SRSU Blackboard Support Team



**Tim Parsons & Estella Vega** – SRSU Blackboard Admin & Instructional Design Support



# SRSU Office of Information Technology Team

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**Jacob Fuentes** – Chief information Officer

**George Hernandez** - Director OIT Operations RGC

**Paula Arredondo** – Director of Networking Services

**Paedric Rayburn** – Network Specialist

**Carlos Guzman** – Network System Admin

**Sarah Sheffield** – Information Security Specialist

**Dominick Percoco** – Director of Academic Technology

**Scott Polk** – LTAC Helpdesk Coordinator

**Manuel Martinez** – Technical Support Specialist II ALP

**John Chasteen** – Technical Support Specialist II ALP

**Cesar Sanchez** – Technical Support Specialist II ALP

**Juan Garza** - Technical Support Specialist II RGC

**Sindy Ortiz** -Technical Support Specialist II RGC





Instructional Services / Blackboard Support Team  
Spring Courses in Instructor's Choice &  
Making the Transition to Ultra Course View in 2024

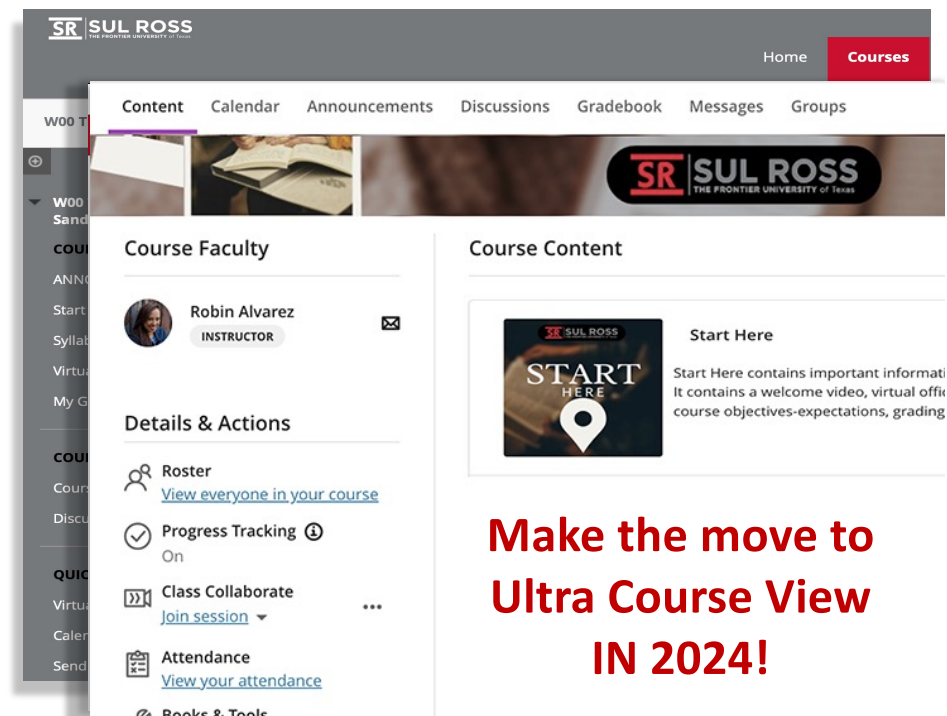
**Tim Parsons & Ray Scheel**

SRSU Instructional Services & SHSU-SRSU Team Blackboard

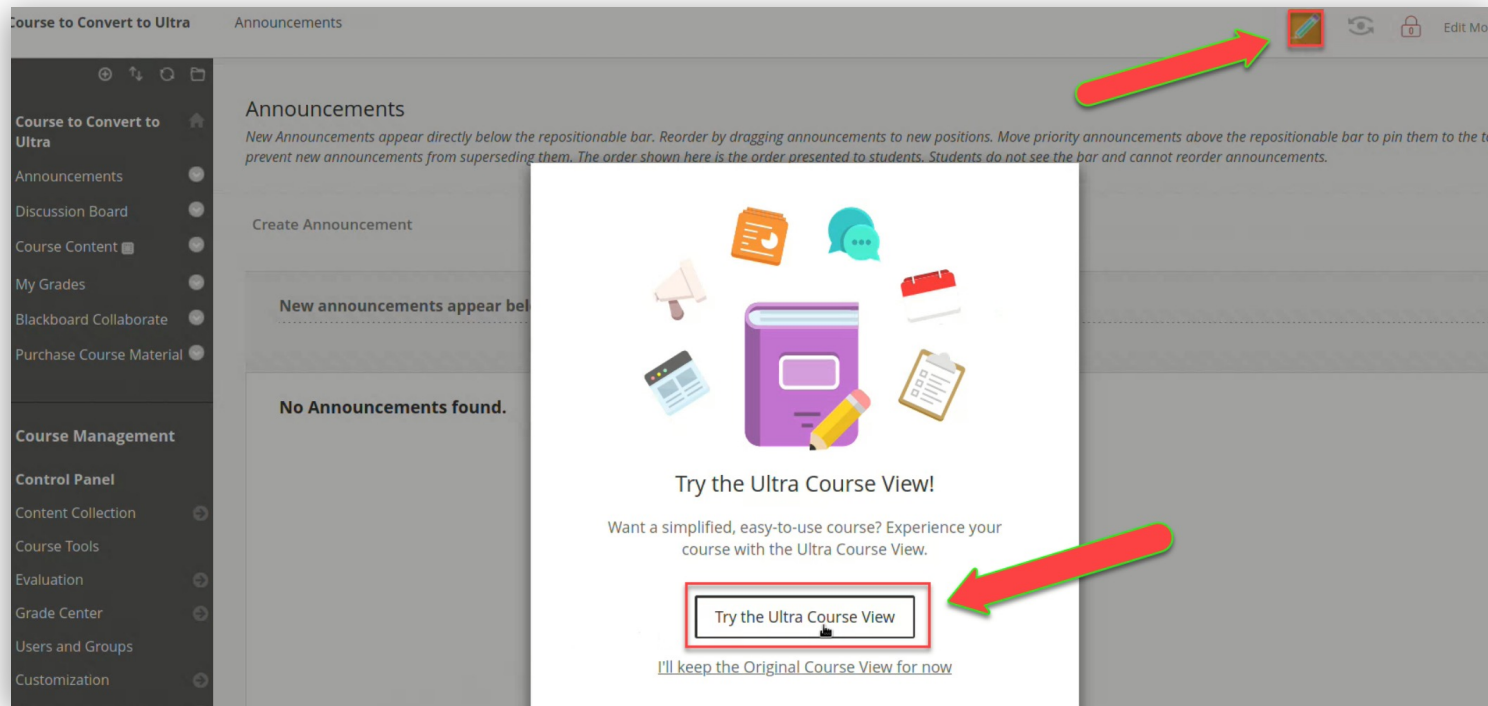
**QUESTION:** How long do I have before SRSU moves completely to the Ultra course view?

**ANSWER:** Blackboard will continue to support the original course view through Spring and summer of 2024, but our TSUS Partnership would like for all partner schools to be completely in Ultra Course View by **Fall 2024**.

**MEANING:** SRSU online instructors should be actively moving to Ultra for spring/summer 2024 with the help of their TSUS-SRSU support teams.



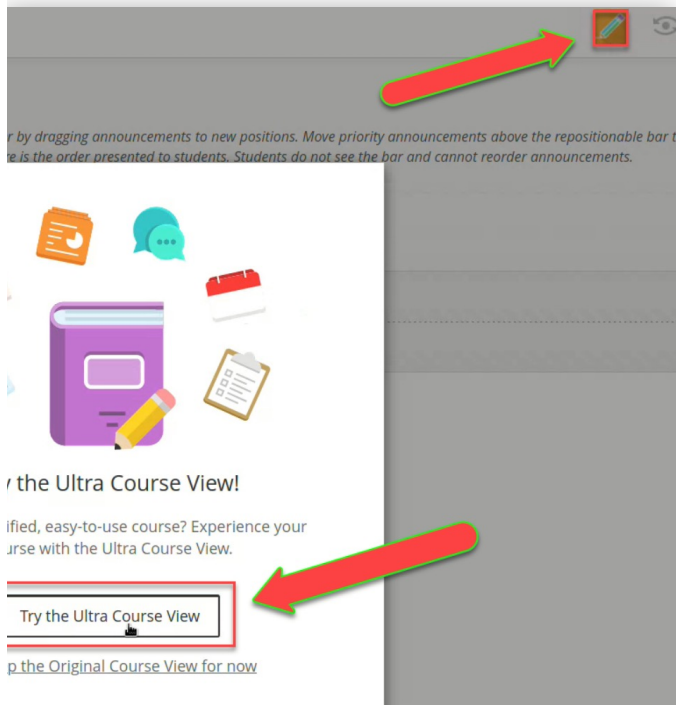
All SRSU Spring 2024 Blackboard shells will be generated in “Instructor Choice” mode allowing YOU to preview in Ultra Course View and also commit to using UCV.



**Instructor's Choice / Ultra Preview – Real Time Example**

**SRSU Fall 2023 Virtual Brown Bag**

## TIPS, COMMON ISSUES & FYIs on CONVERTING TO ULTRA



-While you have the ability to revert back to Original Course View from the Ultra preview mode, some course materials (i.e., Kaltura embeds) may be affected. **ALSO**, any changes made while in the Ultra preview mode may be lost as well if you revert back to OCV.

-When in Ultra preview mode, you will need to approve the conversion by choosing **“Use the Ultra Course”** to make it final.

**-It is not possible to roll back an SRSU academic course to the Original Course View once you have committed it to the Ultra Course View.**

-Once SRSU academic courses become **available to students**, they are locked into whatever mode they are currently in at that time. **I.E.** if you choose Ultra preview mode, you will need to have committed to stay in OCV or commit to UCV **BEFORE** courses become automatically available on the first day of spring classes (Jan 17<sup>th</sup>).

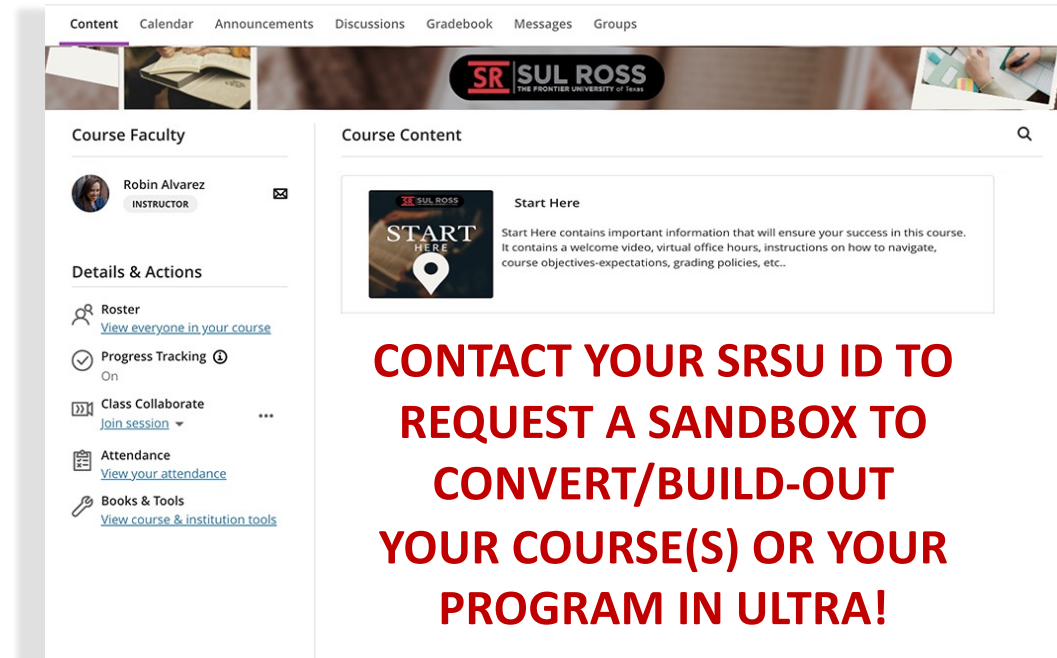


## QUESTION: How can I start transitioning my upcoming 2024 Blackboard courses to the Ultra Course View (preparing for Fall 2024)?

### A potential Ultra-conversion time-saving opportunity for SRSU instructors:

Our Shared Services Partners at SHSU Online have been working with the services of a company called K-16. K16 expertly batch converts whole semesters worth of a universities OCV online courses to Ultra Course View... so you don't have to!

More on this from Ray!



**CONTACT YOUR SRSU ID TO REQUEST A SANDBOX TO CONVERT/BUILD-OUT YOUR COURSE(S) OR YOUR PROGRAM IN ULTRA!**

**QUESTION: How can I start transitioning my upcoming 2024 Blackboard courses to the Ultra Course View (preparing for Fall 2024)?**

**ANSWER:** Reach out to one of our SRSU Instructional Designers and let them know you want to move summer/fall 2024 courses OR an entire programs 24/25 rotation into Bb sandboxes to build out in the Ultra Course View!

**SRSU Instructional Designers:**

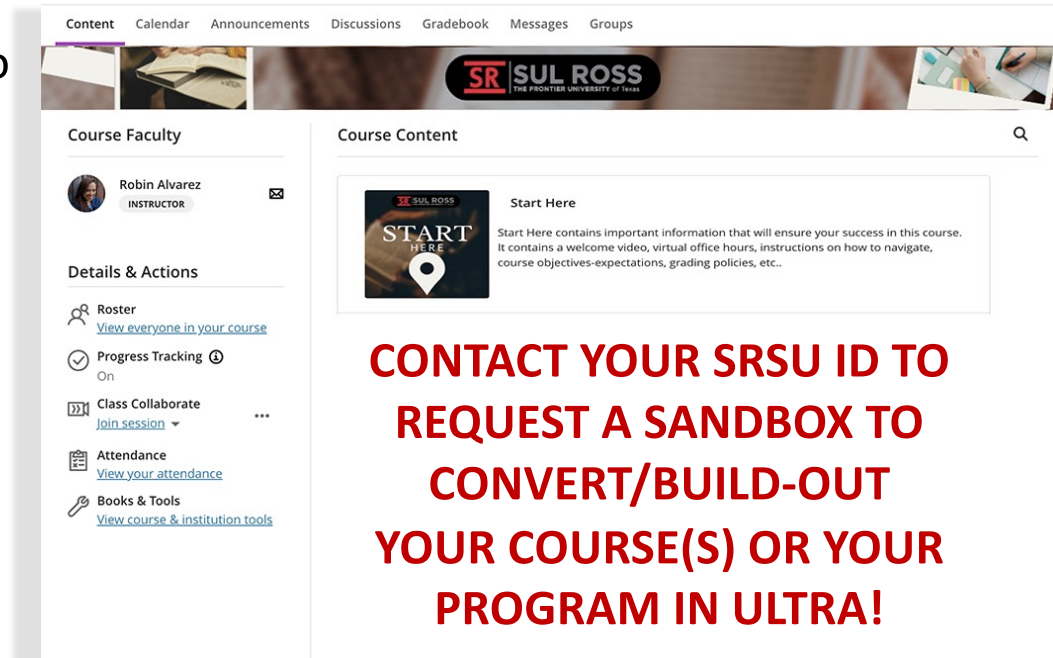
Jorge Luna - [jll092@shsu.edu](mailto:jll092@shsu.edu)

Tim Parsons - [tim.parsons@sulross.edu](mailto:tim.parsons@sulross.edu)

**OR**

**NEW** Instructional Designer support

Email – [IDSsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:IDSsupport@sulross.edu)



The screenshot shows a Blackboard Ultra Course View interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Content, Calendar, Announcements, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Groups. Below this is a banner with the SUL ROSS logo. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Course Faculty', shows a profile for Robin Alvarez, INSTRUCTOR, with an email icon. Below this is a 'Details & Actions' section with links for Roster (View everyone in your course), Progress Tracking (On), Class Collaborate (Join session), Attendance (View your attendance), and Books & Tools (View course & institution tools). The right column, titled 'Course Content', features a 'Start Here' section with a 'START HERE' icon and a description: 'Start Here contains important information that will ensure your success in this course. It contains a welcome video, virtual office hours, instructions on how to navigate, course objectives-expectations, grading policies, etc..'

**CONTACT YOUR SRSU ID TO REQUEST A SANDBOX TO CONVERT/BUILD-OUT YOUR COURSE(S) OR YOUR PROGRAM IN ULTRA!**

# Upcoming SHSU-SRSU Ultra Training-Information & Fall 2024 SRSU Completely in Ultra Timeline:

**SHSU Online Digital Teaching Webinars for November**  
**11/28/23 @ 2pm: What's New in Blackboard?**

## **WINTER/SPRING 2024**

Tim will be contacting and working with entire SRSU programs to discuss workshopping with their instructors to convert all their 2024-25 course rotations to Ultra.

## **SPRING 2024 Ultra Redesign & Certification Cohorts**

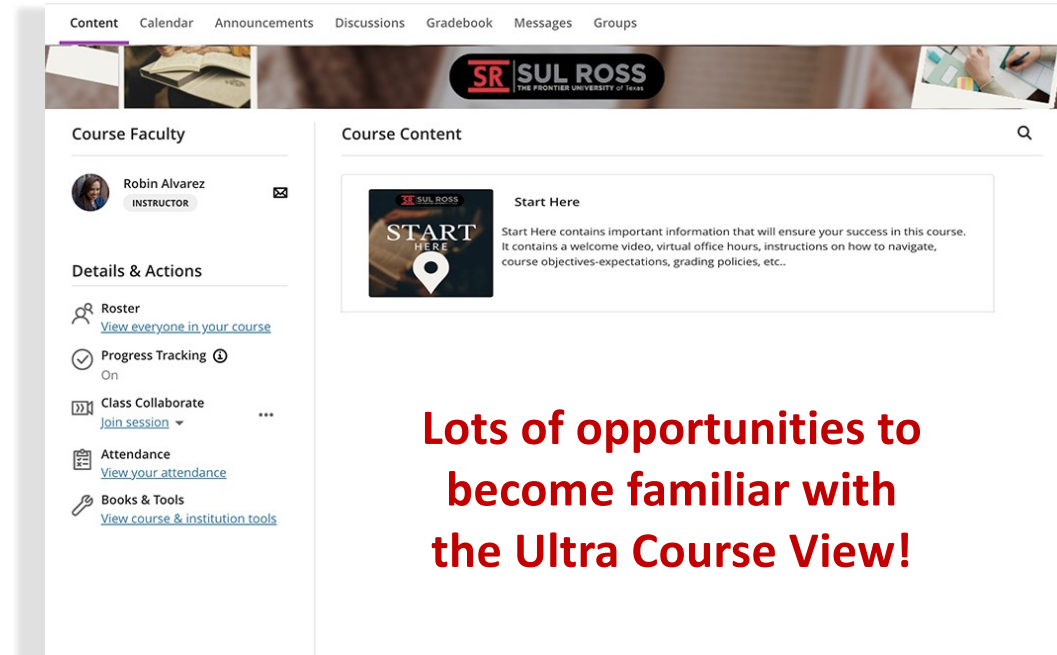
**Cohort 1:** 01/22/24 - 02/23/24

**Cohort 2:** 12/26/24 - 04/05/24

**Enrollment is Open!**

## **2024 Timeline Important Dates/Milestones -**

**SHSU, SRSU, LSCO move to UCV in Fall 2024**



The screenshot displays the Blackboard Ultra interface for a course. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Content, Calendar, Announcements, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Groups. Below these is a banner image featuring the SR SUL ROSS logo. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Course Faculty', lists Robin Alvarez as the instructor and includes a 'Details & Actions' menu with options like Roster, Progress Tracking, Class Collaborate, Attendance, and Books & Tools. The right column, titled 'Course Content', features a 'Start Here' module with a 'START HERE' button and a location pin icon, accompanied by a text box explaining that the module contains important information for course success.

**Lots of opportunities to  
become familiar with  
the Ultra Course View!**

**QUESTIONS?**  
**Q&A time with**  
**SHSU/SRSU Team**  
**Blackboard**



# SRSU Division of Online Programs & Distance Education Quality Matters Update

**Dr. Jennifer Haan**

Director of OPDE

Chair of the Online Distance Education Committee

**QUESTIONS?**  
**Q&A time with Jennifer!**



Blackboard Support Team  
New SRSU Blackboard Tools & Features  
Tutor.com

**Estella Vega**

Graduate Studies/PPOHA AAO Director & SRSU Team Blackboard

**QUESTIONS?**  
**Q&A time with Estella!**





Instructional Services / Blackboard Support Team

New SRSU Blackboard Tools & Features

New Artificial Intelligence features in Blackboard Ultra

**Tim Parsons & Ray Scheel**

SRSU Instructional Services & SHSU-SRSU Team Blackboard

**QUESTIONS?**  
**Q&A time with**  
**SHSU/SRSU Team**  
**Blackboard**



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**THANK YOU!**

