



**SRSU Office of Academic Affairs**  
**Summer 2024**  
**Virtual Brown Bag Event**

**WHAT:** Summer 2024 Instructional Services at SRSU Update

**WHEN:** Friday, August 16, 2024, from Noon to 1:00pm





Welcome & Opening

**Provost Bernie Canteñs**

SRSU Office of Academic Affairs

<sup>d</sup>

(...and some general housekeeping with Tim before  
we get started...)



# TSUS Shared Services Partnership

Sul Ross State University and Sam Houston State University

---

## SHSU Online Team



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

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

**Ray Scheel** - Assistant 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

## SRSU Blackboard Support Team



**Tim Parsons & Rachel Carvajal** – SRSU Blackboard Admins & Instructional Design Support



# SRSU Office of Information Technology Team

---



**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

**Santana taranga** – Control Systems Technician

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

**Giselle Garcia**- Technical Support Specialist II RGC

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

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

**Pedro-Alcario Garcia** – Technical Support Specialist II ALP

**Andrey Dubovik** – Technical Support Specialist II ALP





Instructional Services / Blackboard Support Team  
**Making the Transition to Ultra Course View this Fall**

**Tim Parsons**

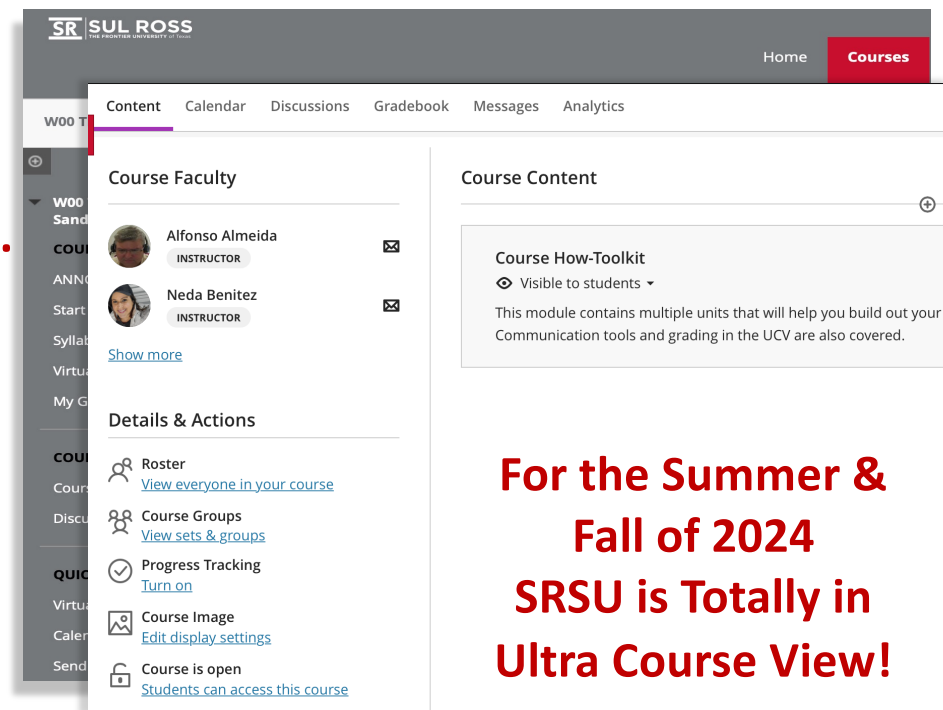
SRSU Instructional Services & SRSU Team Blackboard

## QUESTION: What has the timeline been for SRSU's big move to Ultra in 2024?

**ANSWER:** Our TSUS Partnership have wanted for all partner schools to be completely in Ultra by Fall 2024, **but SRSU made an early “soft launch” to Ultra in summer 2024 based on certain factors.**

### Factors in SRSU making an early launch:

- 1) Are SRSU Online Faculty Ready?
- 2) Is Faculty Support Optimal for this Move?
- 3) Is Our Timing Right?



**For the Summer &  
Fall of 2024  
SRSU is Totally in  
Ultra Course View!**

**QUESTION: How can I start immediately transitioning my upcoming Blackboard courses to the Ultra Course View so I can be ready for spring/summer/fall 2025?**

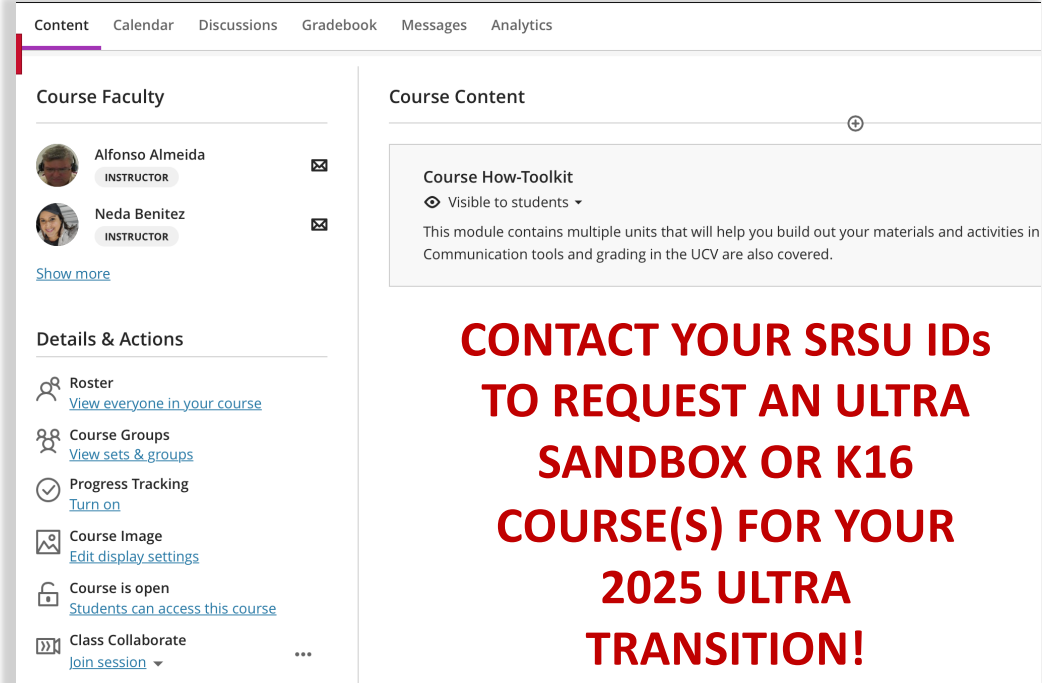
**ANSWER:** Our Shared Services Partners at SHSU Online procured the services of a company (K16) who has converted copies of SRSU Bb online courses from Sum 2022 to Sum 2023 (a course rotation) and instructors have been added into these Ultra converted course shells.

**SRSU K16 Ultra Converted Course Support:**

**Rachel Scherer** - [rachel.scherer@shsu.edu](mailto:rachel.scherer@shsu.edu)

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

**Rachel Carvajal** (*Grad Bb Instructors*) - [rachel.carvajal@sulross.edu](mailto:rachel.carvajal@sulross.edu)



The screenshot shows the Blackboard Ultra Course View interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Course Faculty', lists two instructors: Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez, each with a profile picture and an 'INSTRUCTOR' role. Below the list is a 'Show more' link. The right column, titled 'Course Content', shows a 'Course How-Toolkit' module with a 'Visible to students' toggle and a description: 'This module contains multiple units that will help you build out your materials and activities in Communication tools and grading in the UCV are also covered.' Below the faculty list is a 'Details & Actions' section with links for Roster, Course Groups, Progress Tracking, Course Image, Course is open, and Class Collaborate.

**CONTACT YOUR SRSU IDs  
TO REQUEST AN ULTRA  
SANDBOX OR K16  
COURSE(S) FOR YOUR  
2025 ULTRA  
TRANSITION!**

## FALL BLACKBOARD ULTRA SHELL – REALTIME DEMO

OCV

The screenshot displays the Blackboard Ultra Shell interface for a course. The top navigation bar includes links for Content, Calendar, Announcements, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, Analytics, and Groups, along with a Student Preview icon. The left sidebar, titled 'Course Faculty', shows Tim Parsons as the instructor with an email icon. Below this, the 'Details & Actions' section lists various course management tools: Roster (with a link to 'View everyone in your course'), Progress Tracking (turned on), Course Image (with a link to 'Edit display settings'), Course is open (with a link to 'Students can access this course'), Class Collaborate (with a 'Join session' link), Attendance (with a 'Mark attendance' link), Books & Tools (with a link to 'View course & institution tools'), and Question Banks (with a 'Manage banks' link). At the bottom of the sidebar is a dashed box for 'Add course schedule' with a 'Skip' link. The main 'Course Content' area on the right features a search icon and a list of course items. The first item is the 'Ultra Toolkit For Instructors Only - Remain "Hidden from students"', which is currently hidden. The second item is 'Start Here', which is visible to students and contains important course information like the syllabus and navigation instructions. The third item is a 'Weekly Module Example: (Module Title Here)', also visible to students, with a placeholder description. The fourth item is 'SRSU Blackboard Student Support Links', visible to students, providing links to support resources. Each item in the content area has a three-dot menu and a dropdown arrow for visibility settings.

UCV



# Immediate Ultra Training & Support:

**SRSU Faculty Instructional Designer Support email:** [IDSupport@sulross.edu](mailto:IDSupport@sulross.edu)

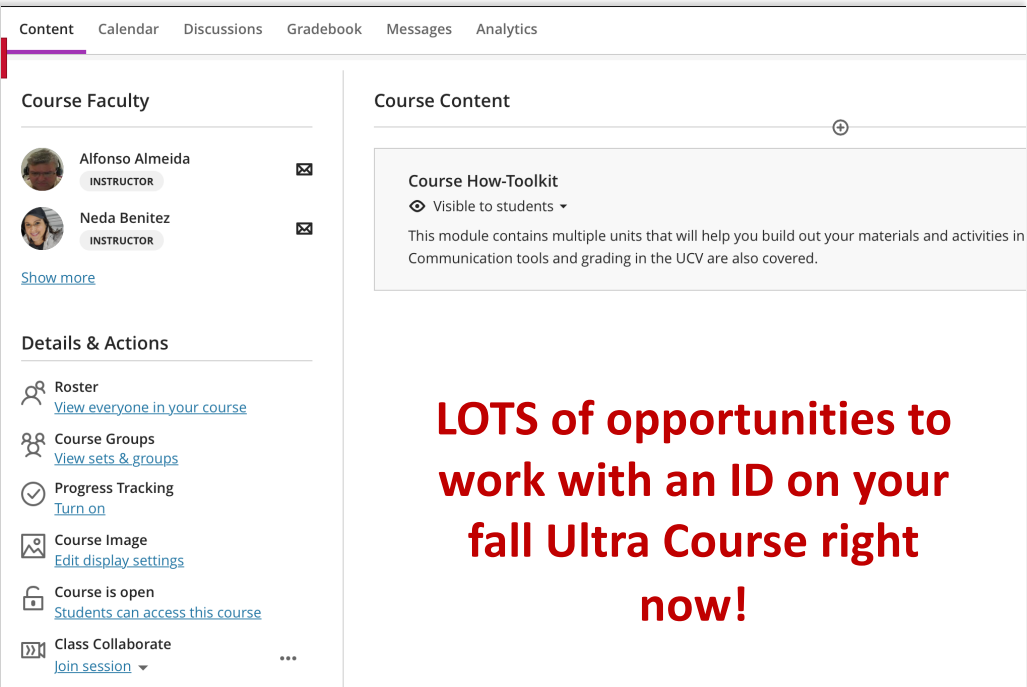
## AVAILABLE TO ALL SRSU FACULTY:

### **SRSU Faculty Support email:** [IDSupport@sulross.edu](mailto:IDSupport@sulross.edu).

This SRSU faculty support email goes straight to a pool of TSUS-SHSU Instructional Designers and allows you to get a much faster one-on-one response to your SRSU Blackboard Ultra conversion & Instructional Design issues!

### **Digital Teaching How-to By Appointment**

Schedule By Appointment Ultra sessions for yourself, your program, or even your entire department!



The screenshot displays a Blackboard Ultra course interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Course Faculty', lists two instructors: Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez, each with a profile picture and an email icon. Below this is a 'Show more' link. The 'Details & Actions' section on the left includes links for Roster, Course Groups, Progress Tracking, Course Image, Course is open, and Class Collaborate. The right column, titled 'Course Content', shows a 'Course How-Toolkit' module with a 'Visible to students' toggle and a description of the module's content.

**LOTS of opportunities to  
work with an ID on your  
fall Ultra Course right  
now!**

# Immediate Ultra Training & Support:

**SRSU Faculty Instructional Designer Support email:** [IDSupport@sulross.edu](mailto:IDSupport@sulross.edu)

## AVAILABLE TO ALL SRSU FACULTY:

### SHSU Online Digital Teaching Webinars for August:

•Some of these new webinars are 30 minute "Ultra Express" mini-session!

**\*8/26 from 2 - 4pm - Bb Ultra Course View Transition Drop-in\***

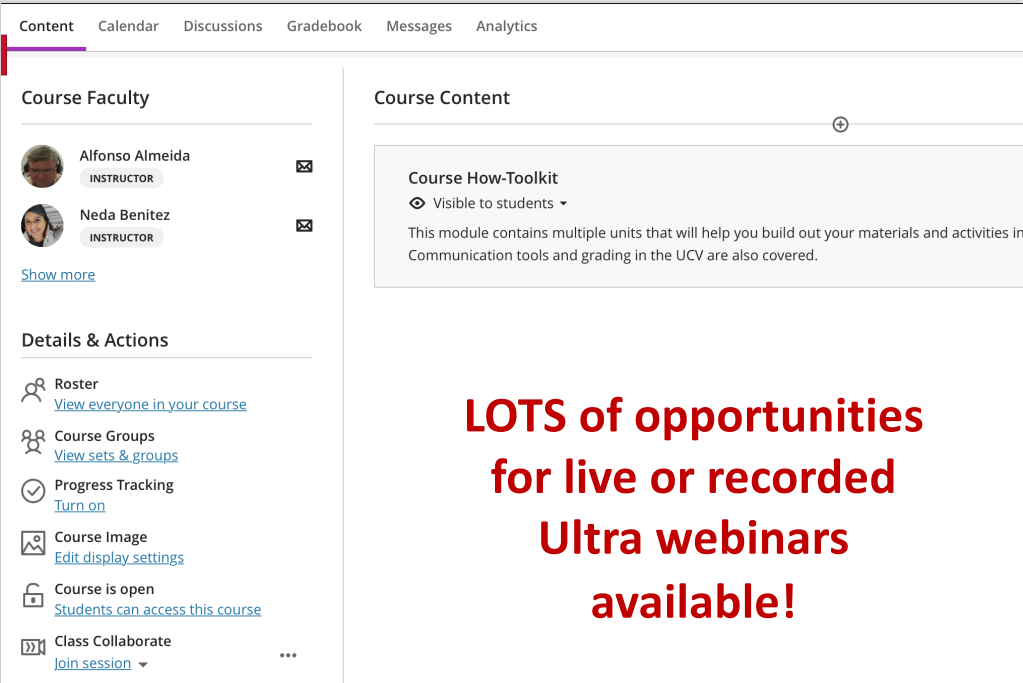
**•8/27 at 2pm - Bb Ultra Express - Grading Student Work**

**•8/28 at 2pm - What's New in Blackboard Ultra**

**•8/29 at 2pm - Bb Ultra Gradebook for In-Person Courses**

### Bb Ultra Course View Transition Drop-in Sessions

During 'Transition Drop-In' sessions, **instructors can get one-on-one assistance** with any Bb Ultra questions and in transitioning & restructuring your Ultra courses to make sure they're ready to go.



The screenshot displays the Blackboard Ultra interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The main content area is divided into two panels. The left panel, titled 'Course Faculty', lists two instructors: Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez, each with a profile picture and an 'INSTRUCTOR' label. Below this, a 'Details & Actions' section provides links for Roster, Course Groups, Progress Tracking, Course Image, Course is open, and Class Collaborate. The right panel, titled 'Course Content', shows a 'Course How-Toolkit' section with a 'Visible to students' toggle and a description of the module's content.

**LOTS of opportunities  
for live or recorded  
Ultra webinars  
available!**

# Immediate Ultra Training & Support:

**SRSU Faculty Instructional Designer Support email:** [IDSupport@sulross.edu](mailto:IDSupport@sulross.edu)

**AVAILABLE TO ALL SRSU FACULTY:**  
**Ultra Resources Available in the Faculty Central**  
**"Teaching Online with Blackboard" Organization Site**

**SPOTLIGHT:** In the "Ultra Webinar Recordings" folder you'll find the latest recorded SHSU Online Ultra webinars such as:  
- **Ultra 5 Pack of digital teaching webinars**

**SPOTLIGHT:** In the "TSUS Faculty Development Day" folders for 2023 & 2024 you'll find resources and all ULTRA session recordings from both events!

**LOTS of opportunities for live or recorded**  
**Ultra webinars available!**

The screenshot displays the Blackboard Ultra Faculty Central Organization Site. At the top is a banner with the SR logo and images of Sul Ross University campuses (Alpine, Uvalde, Del Rio, Eagle Pass). Below the banner, the interface is divided into two main columns. The left column, titled "Organization Faculty", lists two organization leaders: Rachel Carvajal and Tim Parsons, each with a profile picture and an email icon. Below this is a "Details & Actions" section with links for "Roster" (with a sub-link "View everyone in your organization"), "Progress Tracking" (with a sub-link "On"), "Class Collaborate" (with a sub-link "Join session"), and "Attendance" (with a sub-link "View your attendance"). The right column, titled "Organization Content", shows two folders: "Faculty & Staff Services\_" and "Ultra Webinar Recordings". The "Ultra Webinar Recordings" folder has a description: "This content area contains the recordings and resources for the Digital Teaching Webinars on". At the bottom right, there is a "Blackboard Ultra Quick Start Resources" section with a circular "Quick Start Resources" icon and a description: "This Module contains Quick Start Guides, Videos, and Walkthroughs for Blackboard Ultra".

# Ultra Training/Support/Events Coming This Fall:

**SRSU Faculty Instructional Designer Support email:** [IDSupport@sulross.edu](mailto:IDSupport@sulross.edu)

## AVAILABLE TO ALL SRSU FACULTY:

### FALL 2024 Ultra Redesign & Certification Cohorts

**PERFECT** for redesigning a 2025 spring, summer, or Fall course in Ultra!

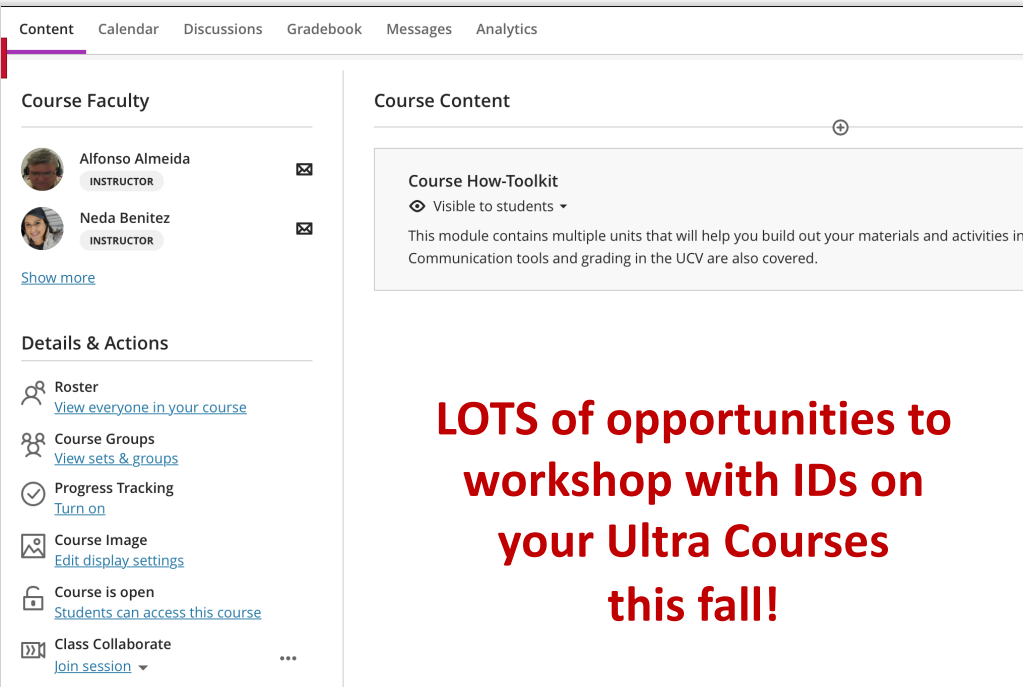
- **Cohort 1:** 09/09/24 - 10/11/24 (10 SRSU seats available)
- **Cohort 2:** 10/21/24 - 11/22/24 (10 SRSU seats available)

Enrollment is Now Open! \$500 completion stipend!

## COMING IN SEPT/OCT :

Live/In-Person On-Campus Instructional Services Brown Bags!

Dates for **ALPINE CAMPUS & EAGLE PASS CAMPUS** Brown Bags will be announced **SOON**.



The screenshot displays a course management dashboard. At the top, navigation tabs include Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The main area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Course Faculty', lists two instructors: Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez, each with a profile picture and an email icon. Below this is a 'Show more' link. The right column, titled 'Course Content', shows a 'Course How-Toolkit' module with a visibility toggle set to 'Visible to students' and a description: 'This module contains multiple units that will help you build out your materials and activities in Communication tools and grading in the UCV are also covered.' Below the content area is a 'Details & Actions' section with icons and links for Roster (View everyone in your course), Course Groups (View sets & groups), Progress Tracking (Turn on), Course Image (Edit display settings), Course is open (Students can access this course), and Class Collaborate (Join session).

**LOTS of opportunities to  
workshop with IDs on  
your Ultra Courses  
this fall!**

**SRSU Summer 2024 Virtual Brown Bag Event**



Instructional Services / Blackboard Support Team  
New SRSU Blackboard Tools & Features &  
Artificial Intelligence Certification in Blackboard Ultra

**Tim Parsons**

SRSU Instructional Services & Team Blackboard

## SRSU Blackboard Tools & Features Update:

### NOW AVAILABLE IN ALL ULTRA COURSES:

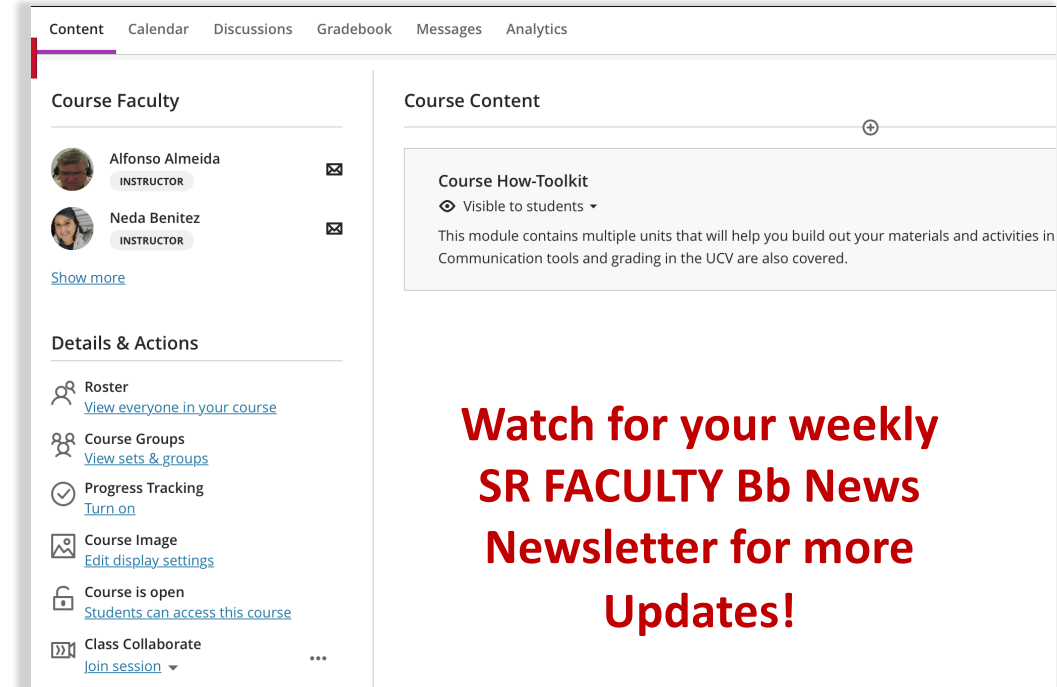
#### Content Designer for Bb Ultra documents

The new **Content Designer for Ultra Documents** allows instructors the flexibility to place content in a way that makes the most sense for the context of the materials in the document.

#### For more information see:

- [Video Walkthrough: Content Designer & File Converter](#)
- [Ultra Document Content Designer - QuickStart Guide](#)

*Links available in your newsletter, handout, and on the Blackboard - Faculty Resources webpage.*



The screenshot displays the Blackboard Ultra interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The left sidebar shows the 'Course Faculty' section with two instructors listed: Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez, both with 'INSTRUCTOR' roles and email icons. Below this is a 'Details & Actions' section with links for Roster, Course Groups, Progress Tracking, Course Image, Course is open, and Class Collaborate. The main content area is titled 'Course Content' and shows a 'Course How-Toolkit' module with a 'Visible to students' toggle and a description of the module's content.

**Watch for your weekly  
SR FACULTY Bb News  
Newsletter for more  
Updates!**

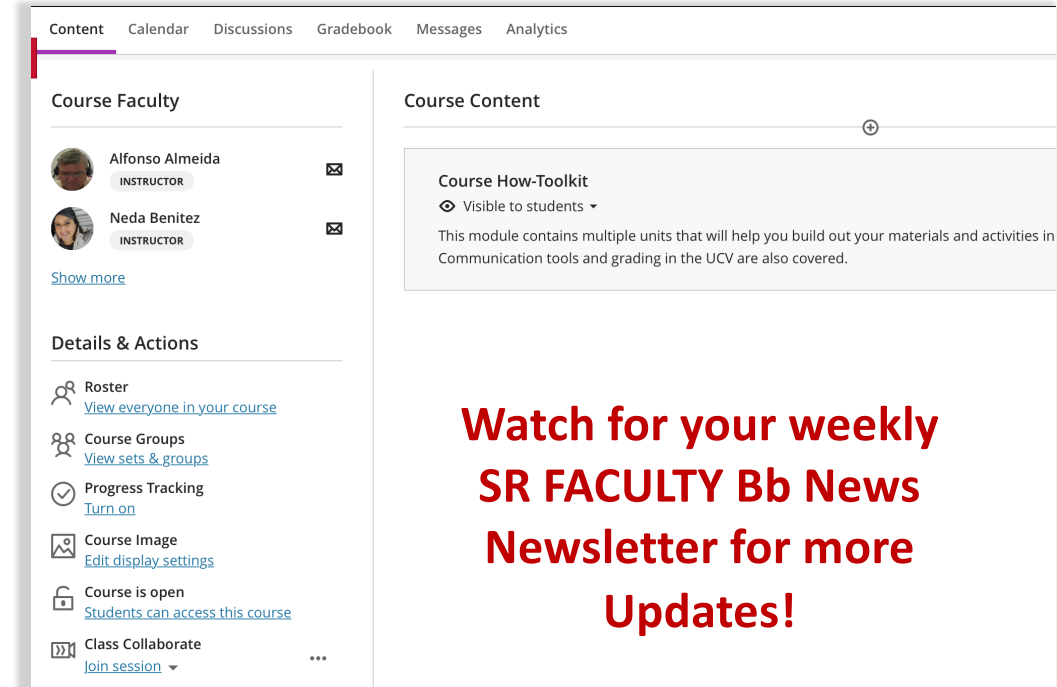
## SRSU Blackboard Tools & Features Update:

### SHSU ONLINE FALL AI CERTIFICATION COHORT: Using Generative AI in Teaching & Learning

This 5-week cohort is fully online and asynchronous, so interact with the course and complete activities at a time of day that is convenient for you!

**FALL 2024 Cohort:** 9/30 - 11/08  
(ENROLL NOW – 10 SRSU SEATS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE)

Enrollment for the Fall 2024 “Using Generative AI in Teaching and Learning” certification cohort is **OPEN!**



The screenshot displays the Blackboard course interface. At the top, navigation tabs include Content, Calendar, Discussions, Gradebook, Messages, and Analytics. The left sidebar contains three main sections: 'Course Faculty' listing Alfonso Almeida and Neda Benitez as instructors with email icons and a 'Show more' link; 'Details & Actions' with links for Roster, Course Groups, Progress Tracking, Course Image, Course status, and Class Collaborate; and 'Course Content' showing the 'Course How-Toolkit' module, which is visible to students and contains multiple units for building materials and activities.

**Watch for your weekly  
SR FACULTY Bb News  
Newsletter for more  
Updates!**

**QUESTIONS?**  
**Q&A time with**  
**TSUS-SRSU Blackboard**  
**Support Team!**





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

**Dr. Jennifer Haan**  
Director of OLDE



**SRSU Office of Academic Affairs  
Summer 2024 Virtual Brown Bag Event  
Instructional Services at SRSU Update**

**THANK YOU!**

