# Course Orientation (in Pictures) & the List of Tasks You Do for Points in Getting Started

If there are other things that you need pictures about, just email me or post in the

[How to Login and Succeed at this Course - Also sent by email before the Course opens. 3](#_Toc536603380)

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| How to Login and Succeed with this Course 1. Go to <https://wcjc.blackboard.com>
2. You see a **Login Here** section on the left.

**Before you login**, notice the upper right section of the screen with the link **Help & Resources**. You **must** use that link to make sure your computer **and** browser work with this Blackboard.FYI: I care about you all, but I am **not** a techy. WCJC’s IT can help (at Help & Resources). **My 1 tech tip is**—if your browser is not working or displaying what I say is there—try a different browser for a day.1. Follow the directions in the **Login Here** section for what you type in those 2 fields.
2. Login on the Blackboard log in screen.
3. On the left side of the new screen see the words My Courses.
4. Look for our course and click on it.

***Tip:*** the naming conventions for Blackboard courses have changed so you may have trouble guessing our course.* + For US History I, look for the letters [WWW 18](https://wcjc.blackboard.com/webapps/blackboard/execute/launcher?type=Course&id=_9685_1&url=) in the name
	+ For US History II, look for the letters [WWW 28](https://wcjc.blackboard.com/webapps/blackboard/execute/launcher?type=Course&id=_9685_1&url=) in the name
1. What you see when you click on the course varies with **whether** you log in.
	* **During** Getting Started, Blackboard automatically displays Read Me First on the right side of your screen. After you have read it, click on Learning Modules (All Content & Graded Work) and then Getting Started.
	* **After** Getting Started has ended, Blackboard displays the Home Page and a list of Announcements.

***Caution:* You** **must** click on Learning Modules and then Getting Started and do the tasks there. Email in the Course if you need help. The syllabus covers how you can get points even though it is late.1. When you are ready to start history work, click on Learning Modules on the Course Menu and then Unit 1.
 |  | *Caution:* For Your Sake, Do Not Come Into the Course This WayThe Director of Distance Education at WCJC encourages students **never** to use what is called Blackboard’s Global Navigation.The students that I have seen **fail horribly** used this tool in the upper right area next to the log out button.

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|  | **Do NOT use this****↓** |
| Title: Global Navigation - Description: Shows the link to the Global Navigation Window. It is a link that Distance Education recommends that students  not  use. |

A **few** examples of disasters from this way to come in the course:* Students thought they were failing because they clicked on something they thought was My Grades.
* Other students seem to think that they can click and go. They skip the instructions so they frequently fail and sometimes do work they did not need to do.
* Blackboard does **not** record that you are in the class so—as far as your instructor knows—you are not in the course.
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| During Getting Started, Blackboard Shows You “Read Me First”This picture shows just the edge of the “Read Me First” file. In our course, “Read Me First” tells you **what you do** and **where to do it**Notice above the file. Blackboard lets you choose to open the file in a new tab or window so it is handy as you do Getting Started. |  |  |
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| To look at Read Me First again, click here**>** |  |
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| When ready, click here **>**The link looks like this:**Learning Modules (All Content & Graded Work)** |
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## At Getting Started, What Do You Need on the Course Menu?

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| < When you come in the course, what you see 1st **after** Getting Started <When you come in the course, what you see 1st **during Getting Started**  |  |
| < Office hours, contact information – Ask! **I am glad to help you.** |
| < Use as a reference that is searchable using Ctrl-F (Ctrl with the F key) |
| <The **only** way to know when to prepare and what’s due and when  |
| **<Two methods to locate Course Materials (work you do in the course):** * Learning Modules (Blackboard’s word)–**Safer method**—Provides **everything** you need: from study guides, instructions, lessons, to primaries—including **all** of the Blackboard tools you use from assignments to quizzes to discussions to exams
* Shortcut to All Graded Work–Provides **only** Blackboard tools to submit work
 |
| **<Blackboard tools that we use in this course**  |
| <**Blackboard’s tool** for **public** communication or **public** submission of writing by students.  |
| < **Blackboard’s tool** for **personal** communication, such as feedback on your writing. |
| < **Blackboard’s** tool for **public** news.  |
| < **Blackboard’s** tool for your **personal** view of your grades in the Gradebook. ***Tip:*** Make sure that the upper right at My Grades shows **Order by**: **Course order**  |
| **<Additional information** * Videos from Blackboard to help you with Blackboard’s tools
* College links, such as to Disability Services.
* History links, such as an introduction to the discipline of history, a searchable and sorted US Constitution, *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*, and to a map website
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# **Learning Modules (All Content & Graded Work)**

## What’s on Learning Modules? (Everything you need in one spot.)

The Learning Modules page not only gives you access to whatever is listed in the List of Due Dates, but gives you *reminders* of what we will be available on the date in the List of Due Dates.

For example, this screen was made before the course opened. At 8:00 AM, that first item will be gone and you will see the **actual** Getting Started module. The word **everything** on the right side of the page means instructions, all content, all tools, and a discussion so you can ask (and answer) questions to get help and to get points.

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| < Another location for the List of Due Dates  |
| < Everything for Getting Started |
| < Another location for the General Discussion |
| < Everything for Unit 1 |
| < Everything to meet the Respondus requirement |
| < Everything to learn about Evidence rules requirement< Everything for the 3-Part Writing from content to the Discussion tool< Everything for Unit 2< Everything for Unit 3<Everything for the Final Exam |

## What’s in a Unit? (All Units have the same things in the same order.)

All Units are organized in exactly the same way.

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|  | < A reminder of what happens in the Unit |
| < The Study Guide for the Unit (and **guide to 17 of 25 exam questions**) |
| < Learning Quizzes for the Unit (and **source of 8 of 25 exam questions**) |
| < Usually 3 to 4 Lessons in each Unit to help you see the patterns of history not just for a good grade but as a life-time understanding |
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| < Learning Discussion for the Unit |
| < Reminder of where the exam will be and tips |
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## How Do You Know What to Do Where and When?

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| < Use the List of Due Dates for **when and where to work** |
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## What’s All This Stuff about Self-Tests and Full-Tests: How Do They Look?

This shows an example from United States History I, but it is also applicable to United States History II>

### Notice Blackboard **Before** You Take the Self-Test on Essential Terms

Units begin with a quiz on common concepts in history that freshman students commonly do not know.



### Notice Blackboard **After** You Take the Self-Test on Essential Terms

Notice the Self-Test is still there—and you cannot retake it, but you can still look at and you should. **Why?** You need to know what you know and what you have to learn.

Notice there is additional material to help you teach yourself and below that the Full-Test you can retake as many times as you want—with the highest score counting.

##

## What’s All This Stuff about Self-Tests and Full-Tests: How Do They Work to Help You?

One of my favorite thinkers about learning says that what make the difference for learners is their **knowing what they know and do not know**. This course tries to make it possible for you to learn what you do not know without cost to you in your grade. Here’s what the syllabus says about how they work to help you.

### Method of Using Quizzes to Help Students with Varied Backgrounds:

Whether Learning Quizzes on concepts or map locations (200 points) or the Evidence Quizzes for history (40 points), quizzes always consist of:

* A self-test so you find out what you know and you do not know. The name is **self**-test because **you** are testing **your**self so **you** know what **you** need to do.) The goal is positive so **no** points are lost. Self-Tests are extra credit and have questions that are only worth .01. (A .01 is so small that it is equivalent to a penny compared to a dollar.)
***Tip:*** On the other hand, it is in your interest to answer Self-Tests accurately so measure your own brain accurately for 2 reasons.
	1. You want to know what you know and do not know to save time and to correct or complete what you do not know. ***Caution:*** With Evidence Quizzes, this is particularly important because, if you miss many questions, you must follow instructions carefully because writing about historyis different from your prior experiences.
	2. If you already know the content in the Self-Test and prove that by being correct on over 80 percent of the questions on that Self-Test, you earn the points for its Full-Test **without** taking it.
	Your instructor enters those points at the end of each Unit **after** the Learning Quizzes close.
* Once you submit the self-test, Blackboard **automatically** displays additional content (if needed) and a Full-Test so that you can earn full points while teaching yourself the vocabulary and map locations that you do not know. You may repeat as many times as you wish, and your **highest** score counts.

A Visual to Help You: How a Self-Test and its Full-Test Works

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| You take a Self-Test |
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| You are right **80% or more** of the questions.Notice what you missed. | You are right **79% or fewer** of the questions.Jot down what you missed—not the whole question but brief words. ***Tip:*** You can always go back to look at the Self-Test again. |
| ↓ | ↓ |
| Blackboard sometimes displays resources, such as dictionary definitions. If you made more than a 0, Blackboard always displays the Full-Test. | Blackboard sometimes displays resources, such as dictionary definitions. If it does, use Ctrl-F (Find) to search the resources for what you missed. (Ask if you need help.) If Blackboard does not display the Full-Test, you made a 0 on the Self-Test. (***Tip:*** You can confirm that at My Grades.) Email bibusc@wcjc.edu with your name, class, and the exact name of the Self-Test. I will reply back that I deleted the 0 so you can take the Self-Test. |
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| **If** you want to, you may take the Full-Test. | You take its Full-Test until you understand. |
| When the Unit tests close, your instructor enters Full points **for** you. | Your highest score counts. |
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| You have the Full points because you already knew it. | You have the Full pointsbecause you taught yourself.  |
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## Tasks You Do During Getting Started

### Why Is Getting Started Only 3 Days?

What’s the reality:

* In an 8-week course and every week in that 8 weeks, we have to complete 2 weeks’ work in 1 week. Faculty are not allowed—and we should not be—to reduce the assignments in an 8 week course. You will get full college credit for this class because you did the same amount of work as a student in a 16 week course.
* If we are not starting history work at the end of the first 3 days of class, we cannot have a just amount of time for the **regular** required work by the end of the last day of class.

What’s the attempt to balance:

* I cannot take a way work for you as a class or for individuals in the class
* But I can try to offer flexibility to everyone in the class. **Examples**: Opening an exam over 3 days. Having writing assignments open for at least one weekend. Having the Unit’s Learning Quizzes and Learning Discussion open until the end of the Unit’s Exam. And such as the policy below for what happens if you come in after Getting Started is over.

### **Section from the Syllabus**: Getting Started Activities and the Solution of Providing More Time for Getting Started:

The Getting Started activities are listed on the last page of the Course Orientation link. If you come in past the due date, you **must** still do these activities, but I will record—temporarily—a 1.11 for each grade with a Comment about the grade if it had been on time. At the end of the term, you email your instructor that you have **not** been late with **any** other assignments. I then change the 1.11 grades to match what I have entered in the Comment for that grade.

### Tasks That You Complete in Getting Started Online at [Blackboard Login Page](https://wcjc.blackboard.com/) Link Address: wcjc.blackboard.com

The list of tasks for Getting Started earns 50 points. More important, these tasks can help you know how to prevent problems—and that always saves time!

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| **Assignments You Must Do in Getting Started (With those worth 0 points meant to save you.)** | **Points** |
| Copy this link from the 1st page of the official syllabus into an email message (or any other tool that you have that you can get to from anywhere): Online at [Blackboard Login Page](https://wcjc.blackboard.com/) Link Address: **wcjc.blackboard.com.** **Why?** WCJC has had times when we could not get to Blackboard through the WCJC connection. We have always been able to get to Blackboard from that Link Address. It has always been open. | **0**  |
| Take Syllabus Acknowledgement Quiz. (***Caution:*** You must do it to stay in the course.) | 1 |
| Respond to the **Before** the Class Opens email according to the directions. This is in your **wcjc.edu** email. ***Caution:*** You do need to show that you can receive and, if needed, reply to emails in your wcjc account. In Blackboard if I write an announcement that the whole class might need (such as change), I also can automatically email it to your wcjc email. | 10 |
| Respond to the **After** the Class Opens email according to the directions. This is in your Blackboard email that your instructor placed for you in Getting Started. This is called Course Messages.***Cautions:*** You do need to show that you can reply to emails in Blackboard. **Why?** Your feedback on written work comes through that email. You do not get the points and are not able to see the next writing until you reply per the directions. | 10 |
| Post your Introduction in the Discussion that your instructor placed for you in Getting Started. | 4 |
| Take the quiz named Key to Success. The password is in the link for the List of Due Dates in Getting Started and on the Course Menu. When you are looking for the password, look in the top section of the List of Due Dates. | 5 |
| Take the quiz named Self-Test: The Course Is Different but It is a Very Good Deal. One of the Good Deals in this class is we use Self-Tests and Full-Tests. They let people know what they know and they do not know **before** they do the work—and without losing points. 1st you take the Self-Test. The password is selftest. <Notice no capitals, no punctuation, no spaces.* With **this** Self-Test, I tell you 1 answer so you will have a least 1 question right. Notice it. **Why?** Blackboard can only display the next things if you have at least 1 question right.
* **Worried That You Might Miss 1? Questions are only worth .01 (like a penny out of a $) and they are extra credit anyway.**

**Tip**: If you did miss questions, be sure you look at Syllabus + Examples. If you do not understand why you missed a question, email me in Blackboard Course Messages or post a question in the General Course Questions & Repeated Announcements & Tips right below Getting Started. 2nd Blackboard displays 2 things for you to use:1. Link to the Syllabus + Examples –**What do you do with it?** Look at the tips at the top for finding what you want. Do make sure that you find what you missed on the Self-Test.

**Tip**: This is the same as the Syllabus & Due Dates except it does not have anything specific to a class (the front pages) or date (the last 2 pages). Syllabus + Examples has links to the **examples I would show you if we were talking together**. FYI: profs cannot put links in the syllabus so this is the best thing I could do for you.1. Full-Test: The Course Is Different but It is a Very Good Deal. **What do you do with it?** Take the Full-Test until you get every question correct. You can repeat as many times as needed—and the highest score (20) counts.
 | 20 |
| **Total for this Section of the Course**  | 50 |

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