Blackboard – What is it and why should I care?

What is Blackboard? It’s like Facebook for your classes, except it is run by your teachers instead of some Harvard dropout child-tyrant with a stranglehold on America. Through Blackboard, you can turn in assignments & papers, share documents, communicate with your professors and classmates, and even watch thrilling instructional videos made by attractive librarians who certainly aren’t social pariahs.

Why would you want to use Blackboard when you already have e-mail, Facebook, and smoke signals? Because it’s required. For many of your classes, it’s the only way to submit assignments. It’s also the place your instructors keep your grades, the schedule of your assignments, your academic calendar, and other course materials. This is also good practice for having a job after college. Pretty much any place you can imagine working will use an online communication tool like Blackboard. Best get used to it now. The skills will transfer.

To get into Blackboard, go to www.coastal.edu and look for the link that says “Blackboard”. This takes you to a login screen. Use the same user name and password that you would for your Coastal Carolina University e-mail account.

Technology is fantastic… When you know how to use it properly. Don’t worry—you’re not expected to be an expert right away. If you’re having problems logging in or using any of Blackboard’s services, like uploading an assignment or taking a quiz, there are two main ways you can get help.

One, if you are in Blackboard already, and it’s not an emergency, use the Blackboard help request form. It looks like this, and is usually in the upper left-hand corner of the page. This button will take you to a page that has an e-mail help form, as well as links to a frequently asked questions list and other helpful documents. Yes, sometimes you just have to read the manual.