There are many tools in Blackboard that allow you to individualize instruction for your students. This workshop covers three of those tools: Groups, Adaptive Release, and Learning Units.

**Managing Groups** allows you to divide your larger class into groups. Groups have access to tools such as the discussion board (for small group discussion), file exchange and group email for members of their same group.

On the control panel, under User Management choose Manage Groups.

Choose **Add Group** for each group
1. **Name** the group
2. Click to choose **group properties option** box
3. Click Submit and Ok

Once a group has been created, click on the **Modify** button to manage each group.
- Click on **Add Users to Group** on the manage group page
- Click the **List All** tab and then click the **List All** button to display the class roster
- Click the Add box by the users you wish to add to that group

**Workshop Topics:**
- Creating Groups
- Adaptive Release
- Creating a Learning Unit

**Add a Groups button to Main Menu**
- On control panel choose **Manage Course Menu**
- Then choose **Tool Link**
- Select **Groups** from the pull down menu

Students only have access to the group to which they are assigned.
Adaptive Release lets you create release rules for an item or folder. For example if you want students to pass Chapter 1 Quiz with an 80 before viewing Chapter 2 materials, you need to manage the Chapter 2 folder with an Adaptive Release rule based on grade criteria. Adaptive Release Rules can be based on the following criteria: date, membership in a group, grade or review status.

To Set Grade Criterion:

- in edit view, select 
- select a Grade Center column from the list. 
- designate the rule, such as score = 70 
- click Submit and Ok

The instructor view shows Quiz 1 and the managed folder, Chapter 2.

The student view shows only Quiz #1. After the student makes an 80 on Quiz #1, Chapter 2 materials will become visible.

Other criteria can be set such as releasing information to a group only after they complete an assignment.
Learning Units:

A Blackboard Learning Unit is a shell which can contain any content, such as Items, Assignment, Assessments etc... Students view content in a modular-style. Learning Units are particularly useful for “forced sequence” instruction. Prerequisite information can be presented in order. Students proceed through the instruction in a linear manner. Unit 1 must be viewed before a student can go on to Unit 2, Unit 3 etc...

To create a Learning Unit, choose a content area and then select Learning Unit and click “Go”. The Learning Units will appear in order in the instructor and student view. Click on the Unit to “open” the module, and then choose from the menu bar to add item, external link, test etc...

Instructor view
Each item is added in sequence by instructor.

Student view
Student proceeds through learning unit in order, page by page. They cannot skip ahead in the lesson.