Navigating Inside Blackboard

Once you’ve logged into Blackboard you’ll be able to use a variety of Blackboard features and navigate in and out of one or more courses in which you are enrolled.
What Blackboard looks like when you first log in depends on the size of the screen you are using and on settings in Blackboard. If your screen is large enough, you’ll see two sections after you first log in. There will be a gray Navigation Panel on the left, and a larger section to the right containing the details of whatever Blackboard feature or function is open at that time.
With smaller devices and windows, you might see only one part of the Blackboard screen at a time. If this is the case, a “hamburger” icon that looks like three horizontal bars will allow you to switch between different parts of the Blackboard screen. If you can’t see the Base Navigation panel, clicking on the hamburger icon will make it visible again.
The Navigation Panel gives you access to essential features and is never more than one click away. It can help you find general Blackboard help, the Activity Stream page, your list of courses, a calendar of due dates, and all your Blackboard grades. The Navigation Panel shown here is as it appears in a web browser. The panel is similar, but not identical, in the mobile App.
The Activity Stream page lists announcements, due dates, and other current and upcoming events from your courses. You can click on most of the entries on the Activity Stream page to enter a course, but remember that you might not see all of your courses listed on this page, because courses with a lot of recent notifications will tend to crowd out courses with fewer and older notifications.
By clicking on “Courses” in the Navigation Panel, you can bring up a list of all the courses in which you are enrolled. Clicking on the title of a course will open it.
The contents of a course are displayed in four sections on your screen, if the device and window you are using are large enough. Along the left edge you’ll see a portion of the Navigation Panel, which you can click on to view in its entirety. Near the top on the left you’ll see a purple square with a white X. Clicking the square will close the course. Slightly to the right of that you’ll see a gray panel holding the course menu. This lists the major content areas of the course, and may differ from course to course. The lighter area further to the right lists the details of whatever content area of the course that is open at a given point in time.
If the device or window you are using is little too small to show all four parts, the course menu might be hidden automatically. In its place you’ll see a thin blue bar running down from the purple square.
If you move the cursor to touch the vertical blue bar, it will turn gray and a tab will appear. Here is it shown circled in red. Clicking on the tab will open the course menu, allowing you to move to different parts of the course.
If the window you are using to view Blackboard is too small to show more than one component at a time, the screen will look something like this. A group of options are bundled near the upper left, here shown circled in red. Clicking on the “hamburger” icon, resembling three horizontal bars, will open the Navigation panel. The white X will close the course. The right-arrow inside a circle will open the course menu.