On Friday, February 20, 2015, the Center for Language Excellence (CLE) presented the workshop entitled: “Pearson/Canvas and Online Course Basics.” The workshop had 20 attendees in total including three CLE/CeLT staff and language instructors from eight different departments, servicing five different languages (Yoruba, French, Estonian, ESL and Greek). The presentation was led by Esther Ham, Director of Online Language Education for the Center for Language Excellence.

This workshop was the eighth of a series of workshops offered by CLE.

The first part of the series was conducted by a guest speaker from Pearson, Sarah Ferguson who demonstrated the features and functions of the adaptive digital learning tool, MyLab. According to Sarah, the learning software helps to improve engagements between students and instructors. MyLab enables students to receive instantaneous feedback on the exercises that they work on with the ‘autograde’ feature. The software is integrated with Canvas which allows grades to be transferred to the Gradebook easily. Then, the participants were led to a discussion on how MyLab can be useful for their classes.

Part two of the workshop was conducted by Kelly Sax and Kelly Farmer who demonstrated how they used MyLab in their respective French classes. The “sticky notes” feature allows instructors to remind students of upcoming due dates and assignments. After that, a demonstration of the “audio feature” – which incorporates the correct pronunciation and spelling of a list of vocabulary, was presented to the participants. MyLab is a convenient and interactive software for students who prefer eText over the printed version.

The post-workshop survey evaluation showed that overall the participants find the workshop to be very helpful.

Below are what some of the participants had to say about the workshop:

“Keep up the usual good work!”

“It was great to hear from instructor’s point of view especially the instructors who are using MyFrenchLab this semester.”