Good times in closed systems

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- This presentation will briefly feature my coming to grips with moving to a SAAS hosted Moodle instance, the limitations I encountered (and you might), and strategies to achieve cool stuff without the normal access to plugins.

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Where did it all start?

Plugins for everyone

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https://modicum.agency/blog/animated-gifs-fair-use-copyright-law/

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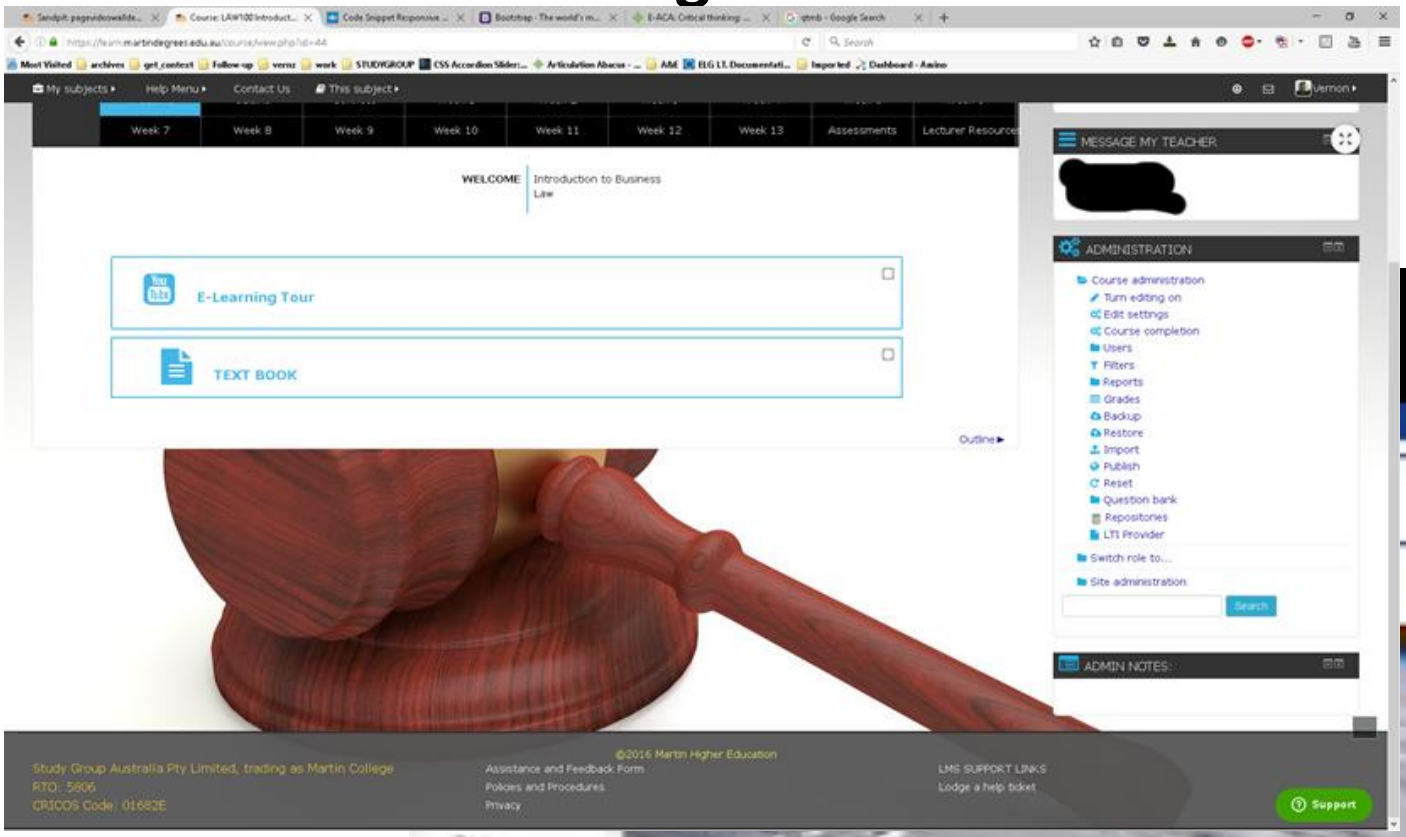
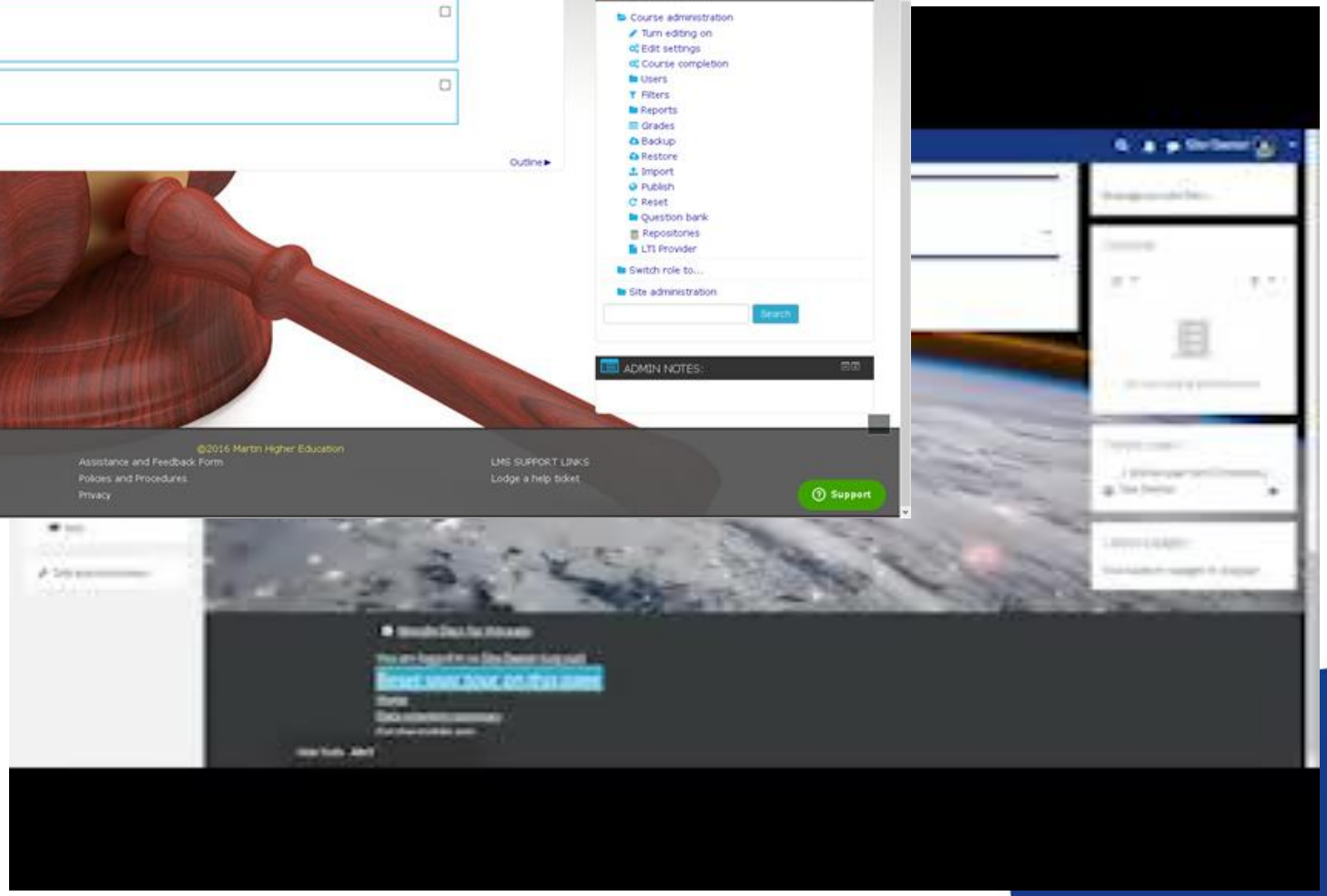
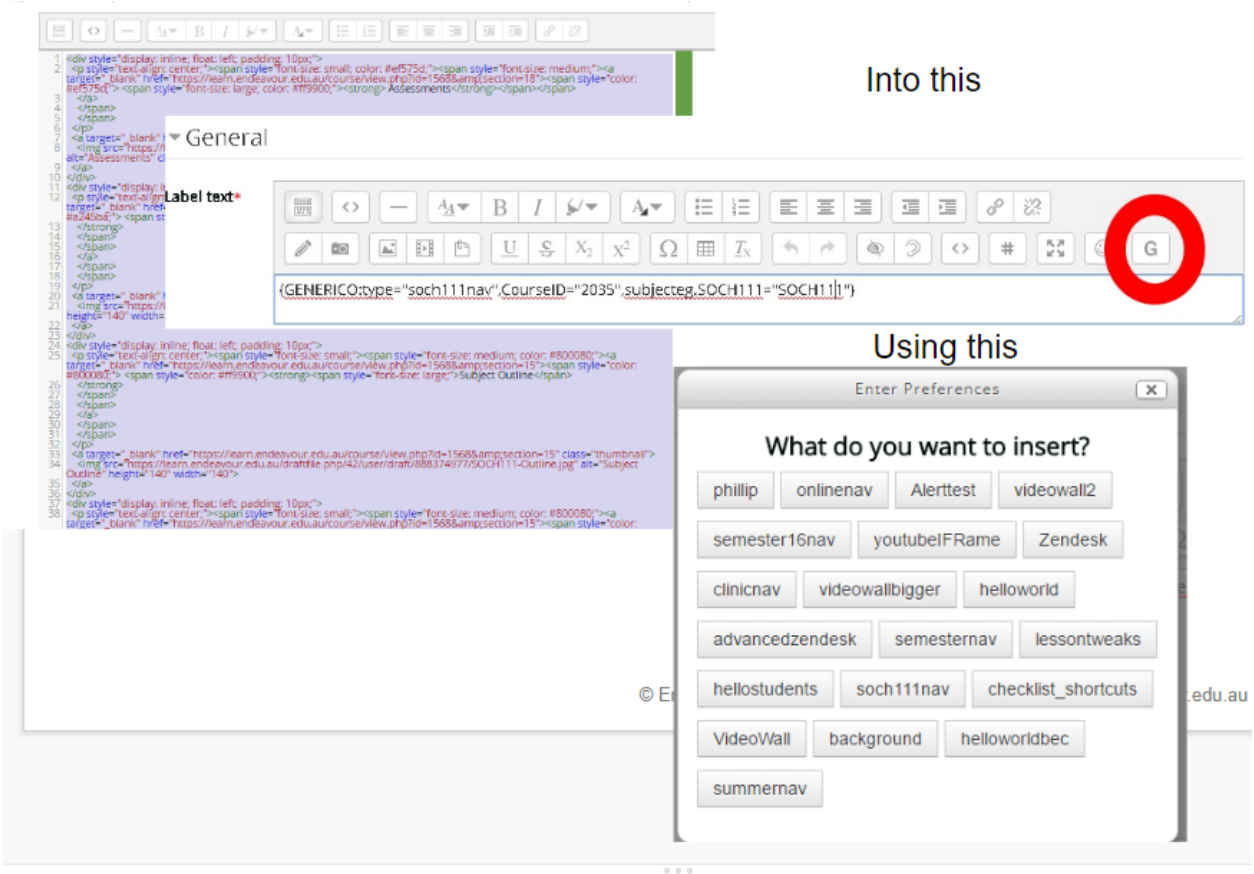
Plugins for look and feel



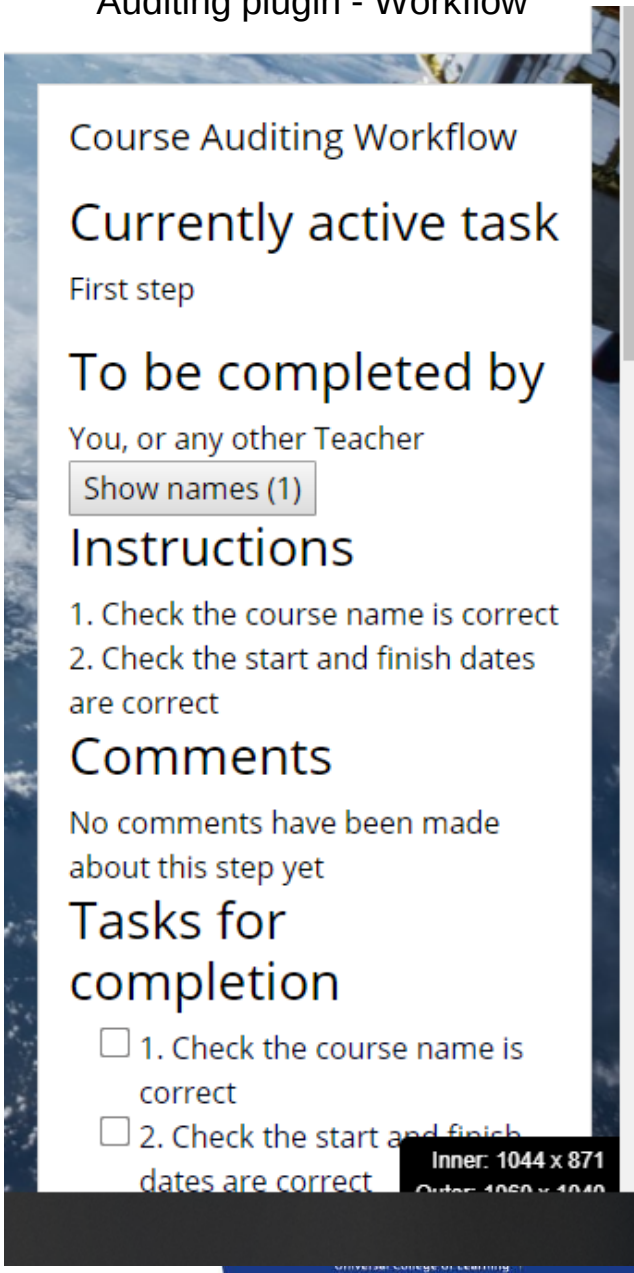


Plugins for function and form

Templating plugin - Generico



Auditing plugin - Workflow



It was good.

But then I changed jobs

Image sourced from:

https://pixabay.com/illustrations/man-adult-businessman-laptop-1459246/

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What? Can't just add plugins?

My current job uses a SAAS Moodle hosted by a company hereafter referred to as "another provider"

Only plugins from a set list are allowed

Anything not on the list attracted a development fee and an ongoing maintenance fee

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Not a happy camper

Image sourced from: https://pixabay.com/vectors/baby-crying-mad-upset-infant-155178/

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So how do I make things look cool?

1. Hard work

    1. Hard work

        1. Hard work

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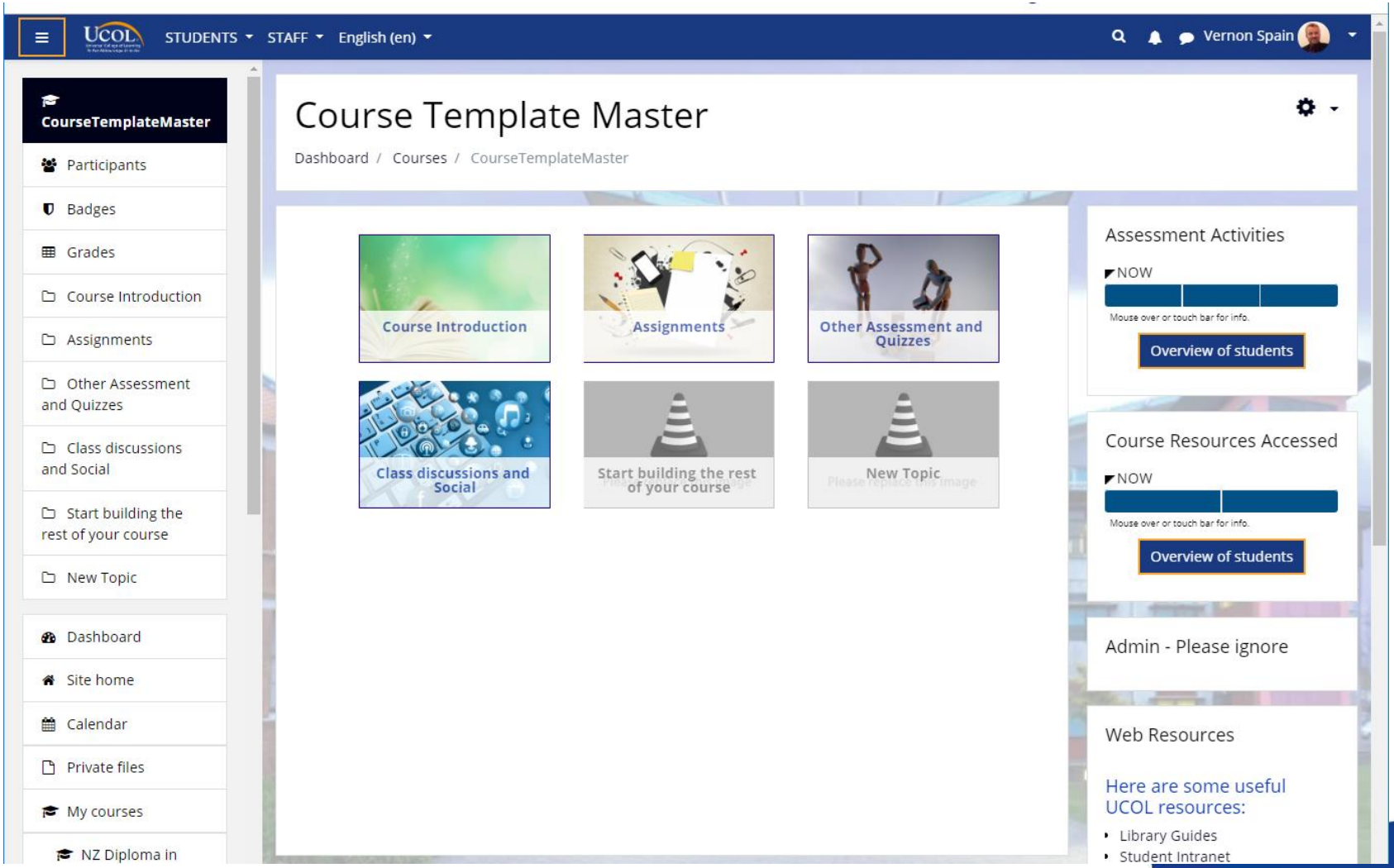
Option 1: Template Courses



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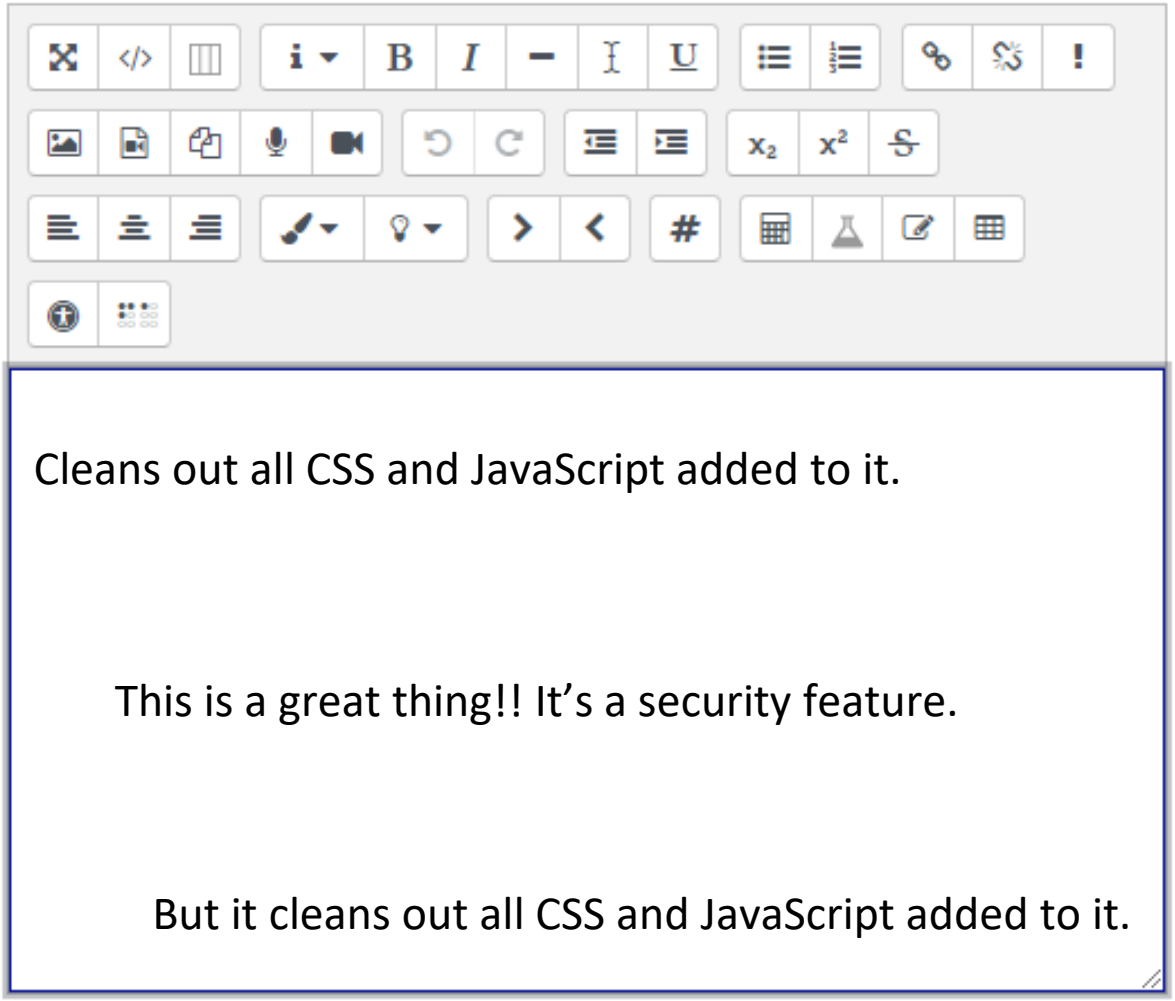
The Moodle editor?

Description

Course summary



Course summary files

Maximum size for new files: Unlimited, maximum attachments: 1

Files

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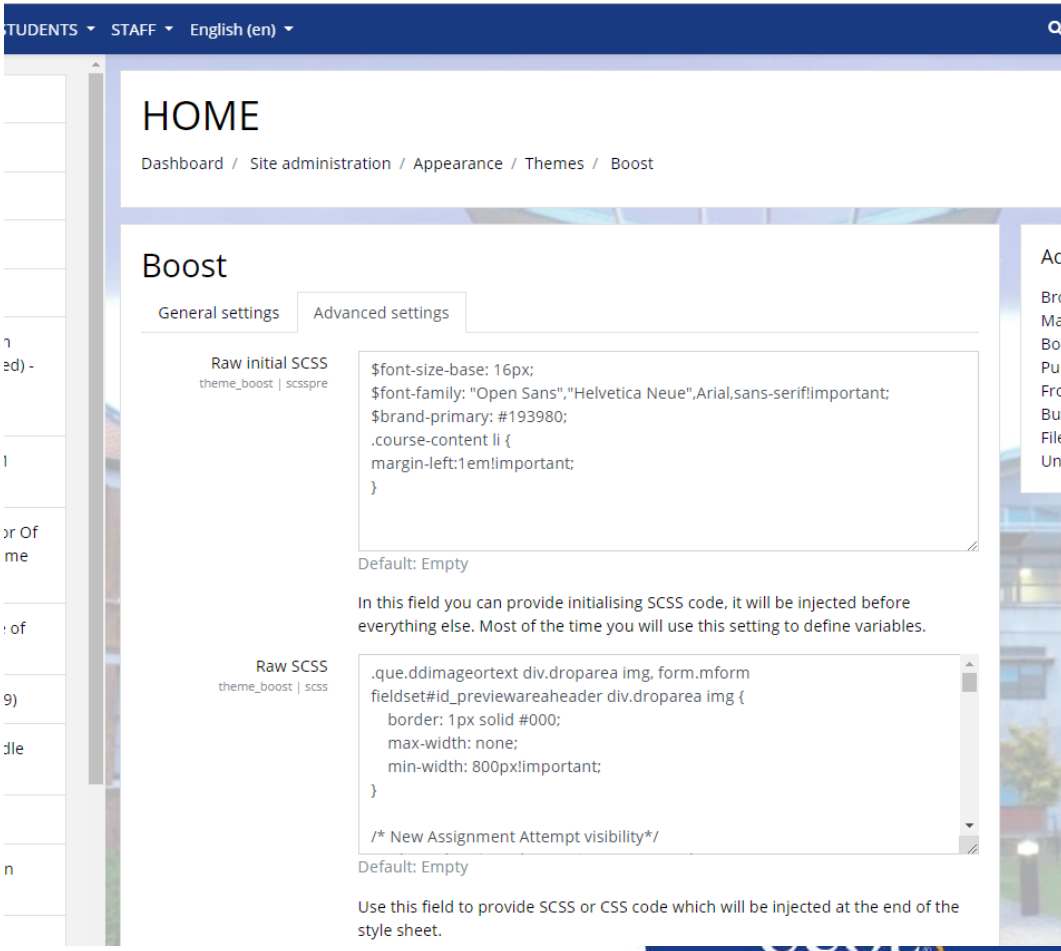
Option 2: Additional CSS (is your friend)

Many Moodle themes have an “Additional CSS” area in their theme settings

In Boost it’s called Raw initial SCSS and Raw SCSS

I’ve only used it to tweak the theme before



A walkthrough can be found here from the New Orleans Moodlemoot
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjJmbqpIE20

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Site wide solutions – Additional CSS

Not just for changing existing CSS but can add new CSS classes as well

This allows the administrator to create code templates that teachers can use to add visual improvements or customisations to individual areas

A two part solution

The HTML: Applied on page or label/activity etc via the editor

The CSS: applied at the site level via the additional CSS area

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An example: Page background YouTube video

#HTML:Placed in a block in a course

```
background video
<div class="video-background">
   <div class="video-foreground">
     <iframe src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/W0LHTWG-UmQ?controls=0&showinfo=0&rel=0&autoplay=1&loop=1&playlist=W0LHTWG-UmQ" frameborder="0"
       allowfullscreen></iframe>
   </div>  </div>
<div id="vidtop-content">
<div class="vid-info">
        <h1>YouTube Fullscreen Background Demo</h1>
        <p>The International Space Station orbits the Earth every 92 minutes, with its crew seeing a sunrise 15 times a day. It exists as a scientific, educational, and engineering
      platform in low orbit, 330 to 435 kilometres above the Earth.
    <p>Original timelapse by Riccardo Rossi (ISAA), used under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. Raw photos courtesy of
       http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/<a href="/500/Use-YouTube-Videos-as-Fullscreen-Web-Page-Backgrounds">Full article</a>  </div></div>
```

#CSS: Applied at site level

```
* { box-sizing: border-box; }
.video-background {  background: #000;  position: fixed;  top: 0; right: 0; bottom: 0; left: 0;  z-index: -99;}
.video-foreground, .video-background iframe { position: absolute; top: 0; left: 0;  width: 100%;  height: 100%;  pointer-events: none; }
#vidtop-content {color: #fff;  z-index: 2;}
.vid-info { padding: 1rem; font-family: Avenir, Helvetica, sans-serif;    }
.vid-info h1 { font-size: 2rem; font-weight: 700; margin-top: 0; line-height: 1.2; }
.vid-info a { display: block; color: #fff; text-decoration: none; background: rgba(0,0,0,0.5); transition: .6s background; border-bottom: none;
      margin: 1rem auto; text-align: center; }
@media (min-aspect-ratio: 16/9) {  .video-foreground { height: 300%; top: -100%; }}
@media (max-aspect-ratio: 16/9) { .video-foreground { width: 300%; left: -100%; }}
@media all and (max-width: 600px) {.vid-info { width: 50%; padding: .5rem; }
.vid-info h1 { margin-bottom: .2rem; }}
@media all and (max-width: 500px) {.vid-info .acronym { display: none; }}
```

#Adapted From: https://codepen.io/dudleystorey/pen/PZyMrd

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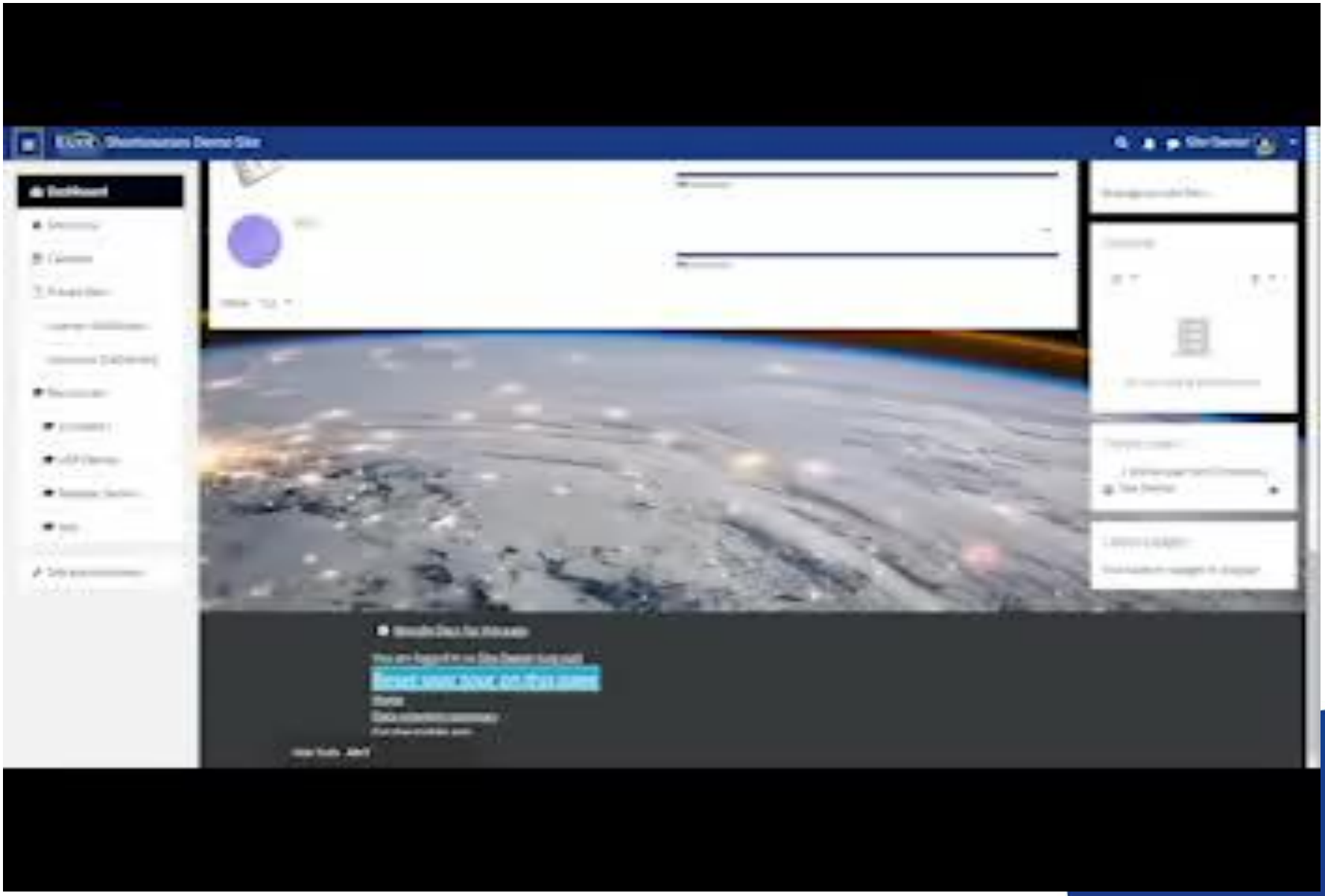
Giggity



CAUTION

The site-wide CSS is exactly that.. Site wide.. Be prepared for those changes to appear everywhere.

Make sure you don't interfere with existing CSS.. It must be unique code or you could break your site

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Limitations to site-wide CSS

I wanted individual CSS for particular pages like a unique course page

The moment people heard I could customise the look and feel they asked for logos to make their courses look more unique

But the logo location is very special and if I add the CSS I used site wide it'll affect all the other site courses….

How do I add it just on an individual course page or activity?

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Option 3: Trusted Content

An important permission that should be highly controlled!!!

Moodle will always thoroughly clean text that comes from users to remove any possible bad scripts, media etc that could be a security risk.

The Trusted Content system is a way of giving particular users that you trust the ability to include these advanced features in their content without interference.. On a page by page basis.

Source: https://docs.moodle.org/37/en/Site_security_settings#Enable_trusted_content

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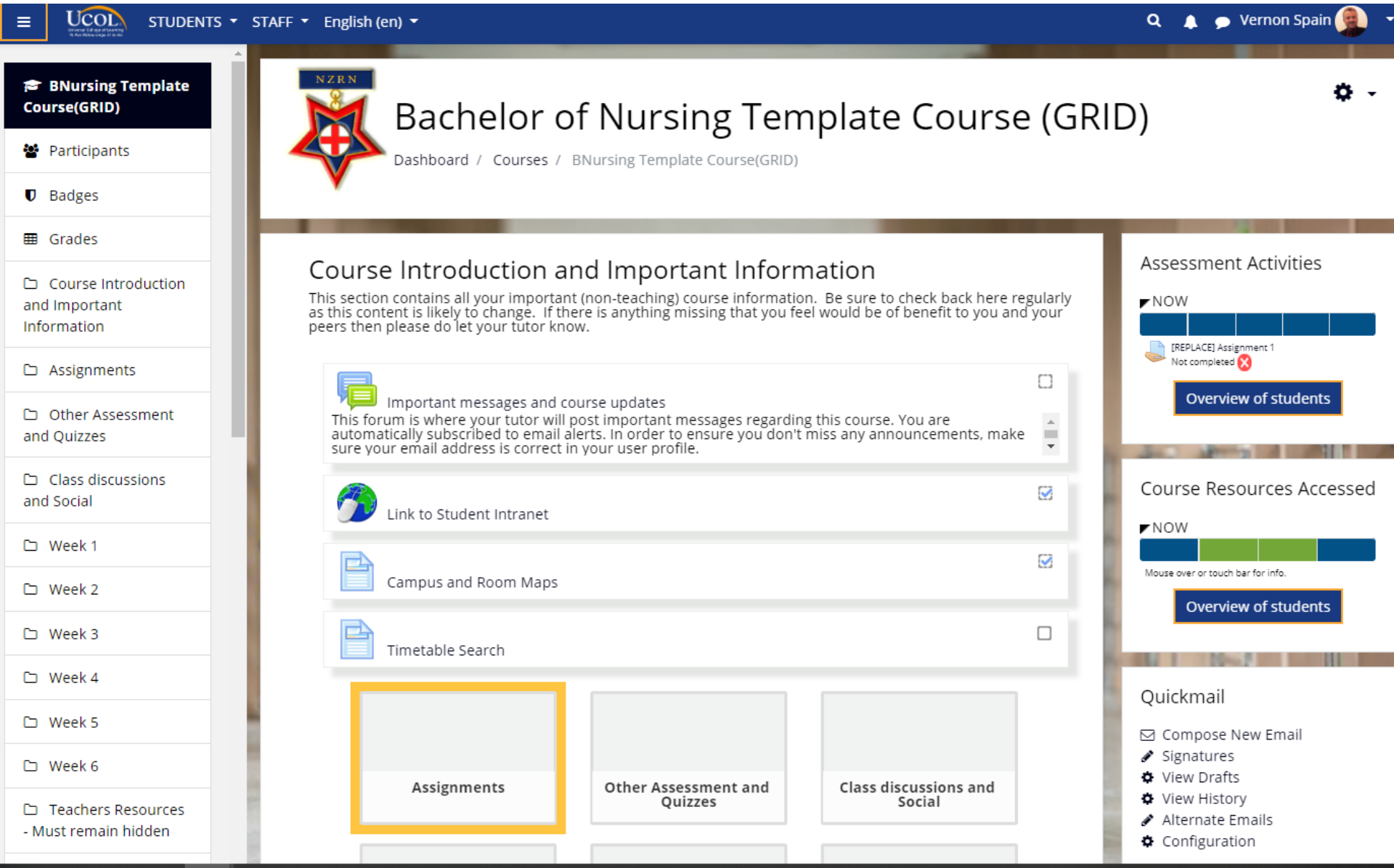
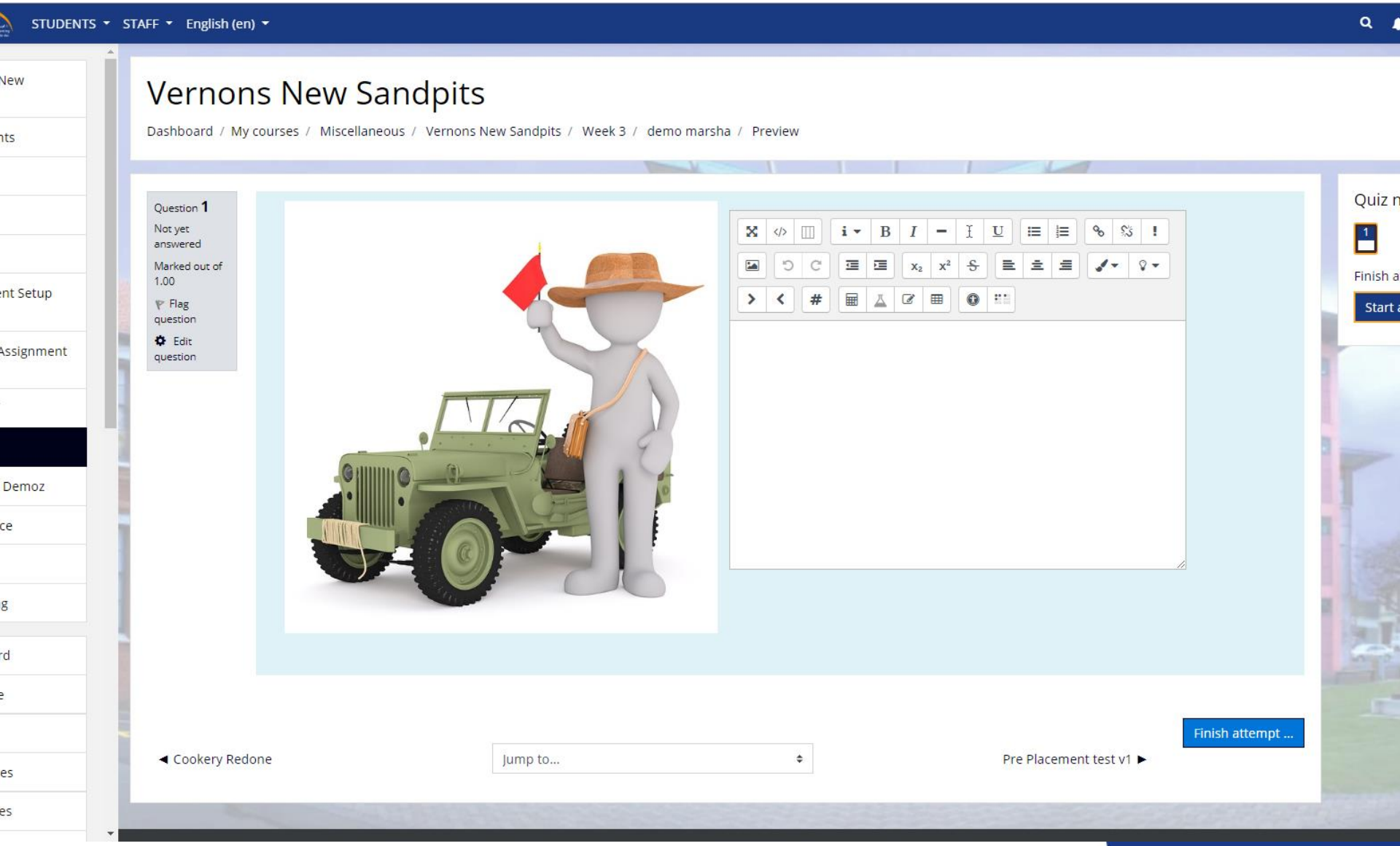
Logos for everybody



Weird requests for in-lab quiz layouts



But I can’t find that setting/access that “trusted Content” setting?

Speak to your Moodle Administrator.

But, if he or she are smart are smart they won’t give you access…

but will instead sit down and create what you need in-terms of templates or code that will allow you to do your own thing.

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Practice it elsewhere

Get your own dev/practice site.

I have two or three or...

Moodlecloud at least

https://moodlecloud.com/

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Thanks and Credits

- My Line manager: Gianetta Lapsley (“It’s better to ask for forgiveness than permission”).
- My Co-Worker: Kirstine White for her support “and patience”.

Plugins mentioned:

- Generico (styling and more) https://moodle.org/plugins/filter_generico
- Workflow block (auditing) https://moodle.org/plugins/block_workflow

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Questions??

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