**3rd Party Tools**

**www. Answergarden.ch**
- Create live word clouds
- Great for in-class polls, feedback, and questions with single-word answers. No log-in, anonymous
- Easily embedded into a course, or can have a QR code printed for students to access via smart phones
- Variety of easy-to-manipulate settings
- Can export your Answergarden to Worlde or Tagxedo

**www.padlet.com**
- Electronic sticky board. You set the topic and then students use "notes" on a digital “wall” to participate
- Great for in-class polls, feedback, discussion sessions, and short-answer questions
- Students can insert media into their posts
- Easy to embed into Learn@UW

**www.twitter.com**
- Powerful communication and interaction tool that is great for class news and updates, class participation, and to encourage class interaction
- Potential FERPA problems – if you require students to post with their own personal accounts
- Possible FERPA work-a-rounds: use Twitter for class-feed only, create dummy account for student use

**Google Apps—www.google.com**
- Contracted with UW-Madison, thus all activity hidden behind UW security. Thus no/few FERPA problems when compared to Twitter or Facebook
- Technology students already use - free and familiar
- Google FORMS - create questionnaires, quizzes, review sessions, polls
- Google BLOGGER - create course blogs, discussion posts (students like the fluidity)
- Google DOCS - discussion posts, peer review of essays

**Tips for Learn@UW**

- **Make course goals clear** – post syllabus on homepage
- **Organize Learn@UW by week or unit and not by material type** (i.e. do not place all lecture notes in a section, all readings in a section, or all assignments in a section). Organizing this way makes it easier for students to navigate your course.
- **Rotate your material**, cycling the most current material to the top and the older stuff to the bottom.
- **Post a calendar on your homepage** prominently highlighting all assignments and course-due dates
- **Checkmarks – or “Course Tracking”** provide useful reminder to students as to which material they’ve accomplished and which material they have yet to do
- **Post course “news” items on the course homepage**. Highlight what you’ll be doing.
- **Intelligent Agents** – Personalize messages you send to students.
- **Analytics** – Use student-tracking software embedded in Learn@UW and Moodle to track student progress. Find and target students who are struggling before they fall too far behind.
- **Rapid Feedback Assignments** – Use short, low-stakes assignments (such short as multiple choice quizzes) to see where students are struggling. Helps to better structure lecture & assignment material according to student needs.
- **Develop a social presence** - the more students feel they know you, the more they will come talk with you.
- **Walk the Walk** – Model the behavior you would like the students to exhibit. This will clue students in to what you expect and how you will grade.

**Excellent SHORT Article on FERPA Compliance** — Perry D. Drake, “Is your Use of Social Media FERPA Compliant?”, *Educause Review Online* (24 Feb, 2014)