Design Principles for Components

Too many choices

- Finding an item on a list
- Too many unnecessary form options and screens
- Too many choices (course creation - group tools intelligently)

Missing content

- Provenance - where is stuff coming from?
- Titles should match the status of a task (e.g. edit announcement vs. view announcement)
- (M) Not clear what to do to create new course
- "Open in a new Window" indicator - analysis that a new window is required
  - Difficult window arrangement
  - No indication that this is opening a new window - can be confusing

Inconsistency

- Metadata inconsistencies (terminology, display, order)
- Form submit buttons inconsistent (forums)

Visual Style

- Resources: "x" button to remove files is an unusual affordance, doesn't work for first file
- Calendar - In Focus
  - Uses visual cue similar to browsers. Need something like highlight to distinguish today from other days on calendar
- Visual indicator of what's in focus
  - Browser visual cues too faint
  - Can we enrich what the browser does?
  - Particularly difficult for tool nav, checkboxes

Missing Functionality

- Page vs. Tool: No affordance for multiple tools on a page
- I-frames: turning off CSS leads to collapse of content frame

Missing Accessibility

- Access Keys
  - Potential for conflict w/ browser shortcuts, mixed feelings about benefit
  - Argues for making an on/off option
- Semantic page construction (headers, paragraphs, hierarchy)
- Accessible/Keyboard tool navigator
  - Exist in many cases but should for all tools
  - Definition needs to be available

Placement

- Pain point: scroll to bottom to find a button
- Action buttons
  - Butons typically below the fold
  - User naturally chooses "x" to get out of wherever they are
  - Need to have buttons in view anytime they could be used
- Banner: Welcome student message should be on the left sude of the banner. Current location makes it blend in with utility links

Back Button

- Back button doesn't work - users expect it to
- "back" and "cancel" used interchangeably across wizards
- Back button should always take me to the place i just came from
- Tools should not loose work if back button is pressed

Misc

- Internationalization