CourseLinkTweet Widget

OpenEd has developed a custom widget that can be added to your CourseLink course site’s homepage. This widget may added by anyone with the Instruct-build-grade role on a course site.

CourseLinkTweet Widget Features
- Allows an instructor to set up a custom twitter feed on their course site’s homepage
- Students do not need a twitter account to view the feed
- If a student does have a twitter account, they can follow the course feed and sign in to the My Twitter tab and follow their own twitter timeline

Getting Started
To get started with the CourseLinkTweet widget, you’ll need to first make sure you have a custom homepage setup rather than the default homepage. The best way to create a custom homepage is to create a copy of the default homepage and set it to active. If you already have a custom homepage, then you can skip down to the “Adding the CourseLinkTweet Widget” section.

Follow these steps to setup a custom homepage:

1. Access the course site where you would like to add the CourseLinkTweet widget to the homepage
2. Select “Edit Course” and then choose the “Homepages” option.

3. On the “Homepages” page, click the down-facing arrow to the right of the “Course Default” (bold text) and select “Copy”. A new blue hyperlink to a homepage titled “Course Default - Copy” will appear.
4. Next, click the “Active Homepage” dropdown box above the list of homepages and select “Course Default – Copy” and click “Apply”. You have now set the copy of the default homepage as the active homepage and any edits you make to it (i.e. adding the CourseLinkTweet widget) will automatically appear when saved.

**Adding the CourseLinkTweet Widget**

1. From within your course site, make sure you are on the Homepages page by clicking “Edit Course” then selecting “Homepages”

2. Ensure that your custom homepage (listed in blue text) is set to the active homepage, then click the title of that custom homepage, which should be in blue hyperlinked text (in most cases this will likely be called “Course Default - Copy”)

3. Next, decide where you would like to place the CourseLinkTweet widget. You may choose to add it to the Left or right side of the homepage by clicking the “Add Widgets” link located in the dotted box for each side.
4. After clicking “Add Widgets”, select “CourseLinkTweet” from the list of widgets or search for it in search box located in the top-right corner and click the “Add” button.

5. The CourseLinkTweet widget will now appear on the bottom section of the side of the Homepage you selected. If you would like to reposition it you may drag and drop it to a new location. Then click “Save and Close”.
Configuring the CourseLinkTweet Widget

1. To access your widget and start the setup process click the “Course Home” link located on your navigation bar.
2. Locate your CourseLinkTweet widget on the homepage and select the “Configure this widget” option.

3. There is a link on the configuration page to detailed instructions, which are summarized below:
   a. Login to your Twitter account at https://www.twitter.com
   b. Click on your profile image from the twitter minibar and select “Settings”
   c. Select the Widgets option
   d. Select the “Create New” button
   e. Select the tab that corresponds to the type of widget you would like to create (User Timeline, Favorites, List, Search or Collection) More information on these options can be found via the following twitter page: https://support.twitter.com/articles/20170071?lang=en
   f. Set the options in the Configuration area (be sure to set the Height option to 350)
   g. Save your changes
   h. Copy the code found in the new box that appears under the widget preview and paste it in the CourseLinkTweet Configuration text box (located on the configuration page accessed in step 3)
   i. Click Submit
   j. Return to your course site and refresh the homepage to see your widget in action
   k. You may reconfigure your widget at any time by clicking the “Configure this link” again and adding code from another customized twitter widget created on your twitter account (i.e. change it from User Timeline to Search)
4. Your CourseLinkTweet widget is now setup on your course site. For more information and ideas on how to use twitter effectively within a course site please contact: courselink@uoguelph.ca