

CANVAS COURSE DESIGN

This guide will provide you with a few essentials for good course design in Canvas and a few tips and tricks. In addition, it outlines the three main ways you can organize your Canvas course.

Course Design Essentials

Navigation

Navigation throughout the Canvas site should be logical, consistent and efficient.

- Use the same organizational strategy week to week.
- Change the front page to the primary way for your students to access the course information.

Design

The course design facilitates readability & minimizes distractions.

- Assignments and course content are organized and easy to find
- Use the Student View to understand what the students sees
- Don't use light colored text.

Elements

Use only the essential course tools.

- Remove student access to course tools in the course navigation menu that are not being used.
- Try to keep course work and activities in Canvas, rather than spreading work across multiple platforms.

Canvas Course Organization

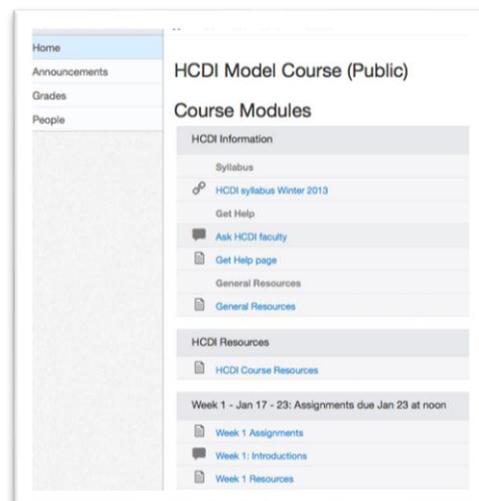
Organized Around Modules & Pages

This approach is the most common use of Canvas. You can think of modules as a one-stop shop for all the content in your Canvas course. It is best used when using multiple Canvas tools and you need to keep the course organized.

Example: You are teaching a face-to-face class and you would like to use Canvas for uploading course readings, having students turn in assignments, online office hours and using the grade book.

Take a Look: UWB HCDI Course

<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/886479>



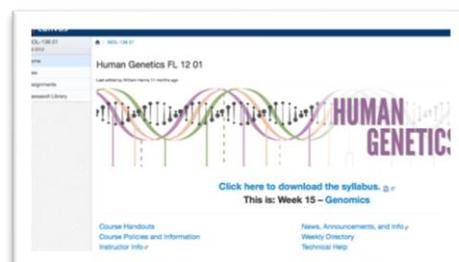
Organized Around Assignments & the Calendar

If you are using Canvas solely for managing student assignments, then this design will work for you.

Example: In your on-campus course, students will be turning in their assignments online via Canvas. You will grade and return these assignments back to the students online.

Take a Look: Human Genetics, Bill Hanna (Massasoit CC)

<https://massasoit.instructure.com/courses/346439>

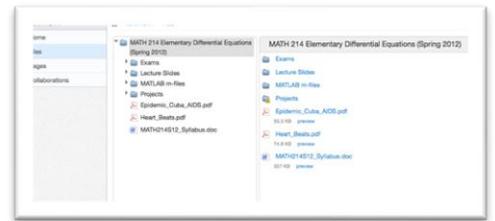


Organized Around Files

This course design is best used when you need to organize large amount of content (for example course readings) and you will not use any of the other tools in Canvas.

Example: In your course you do not use a textbook and therefore have a large amount of readings for your students, which you post online. You may choose to use a few other tools in Canvas, however the main use of the course is for the posting of the course readings.

Take a Look: Math 214, Canvas Network
<https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/274982>



Other Course Examples

There are several other examples of Canvas course design models. As with any course, there are pros and cons to how they are designed. For more Canvas course examples, navigate to the following links:

A list of open and public courses put together by Canvas:
<http://guides.instructure.com/s/2204/m/5834/l/55579-sample-courses>

Canvas Courses – A list compiled by Sara Thompson, librarian at OSU.
<https://www.diigo.com/list/esquetee/canvas-courses>