The Syllabus: Contract or Map?

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Master Teacher Program
“IT’S ON THE SYLLABUS!”
-DR. CARVER

Lees-McRae College
What is the Purpose of Your Syllabus?

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 113947

What is the purpose of your syllabus? To be a:

- Slide is not active
- Activate
Syllabus as Contract

• Student & faculty perception
• Record for appeals, grievances
• Preventive medicine

Syllabus as Contract

- “Repository of legalese”
- Protecting ourselves?

Paxton KC, Magruder ED. *Scholarly Teacher*, 2016
Syllabus as Contract
Syllabus as Roadmap/Guide

• Contract: What happens if terms not fulfilled
• Roadmap: What happens if students succeed

Paxton & Magruder, 2016
Syllabus as Invitation

• Learner-centered approach
• Balance the don’ts with do’s

Paxton & Magruder, 2016
Syllabus as Instruction Manual

- Teaching tool
- Coordinator & instructor values

Sullivan J, MiraCosta College, 2005
SYLLABUS LAW
Syllabus Law 101

• Types of cases
  – Breach of contract
  – Educational malpractice

• Situations
  – Academic integrity
  – Failure to pass licensure exams
  – States’ consumer protection laws

Rumore, 2016
Syllabus Law 101

• Widespread use of “contract”
• Courts: Not a “contract”
• Liability:
  – Failure to deliver agreed upon # hours of instruction
  – Failure to provide specified services
CONTENT
Good-faith agreement

- Treat as legal document
- Match course descriptions with catalog
- Describe how grade rounding will be approached
- Give students full understanding of what is expected of them
- Document syllabus changes initially made orally
UTCVM Template

- Purpose: Students know where to look to find info quickly
- Make it easier for faculty
- Share it with the teaching team (course coordinator responsibility)
UTCVM Academic Standards

- “Faculty will designate their process for rounding and grading within the course syllabus.”

- “Grading policy should be outlined in the course syllabus.”
Canvas Syllabus Feature

- Home page option
- Schedule automatically generated
Course Syllabus

As I'm sure you've heard, medicine can be a busy service. To help minimize your stress in starting the rotation, we've prepared some materials so that you will be prepared to hit the ground running!

Prior to the first day of the rotation, please read:

1) Student Orientation Information (pages 2-5)
2) and watch this [general orientation video](#) from the technicians
(You will need to adjust sound).

The below information will be useful throughout the rotation. Feel free to review at any time!

-------------------------------------------------------------
Here is the [grading rubric](#).
Here is the [Mid-Block Self Evaluation Grading Rubric](#).
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**HOW TO VIDEOS:**

1) Write a Complete Medical Record
   - [History](#) (4:13)
   - [Physical Exam](#) (3:06)
   - [Assessment and Plan](#) (2:59)

2) Write [precription to pharmacy](#) (1:44)
   - [Clinician Orders](#) (3:59)
     - Write [Drug Orders or Clinician Orders](#) (3:28)
If Your Syllabus Could Talk

What would it say about you?

D’Antonio, Chron Higher Ed, 2007

Minimalist approach

• List of dates and book chapters
• Message: Hands-off, unapproachable
Creativity

- Dynamic formatting
  - Intersperse with graphics or “talk boxes” that briefly explain why a section is worth reading.
- Ask students what they think.
  - At beginning of course or at end
- Adjust each semester

Paxton & Magruder, 2016; Gooblar D, Chron Higher Ed, 2017
Inspirational Quotes?

• “A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary.”—Thomas Carruthers

• “Knowledge rests not upon truth alone, but upon error also.”—Carl Jung
Piktochart

Course Description
Prosocial information & practice of essential skills needed for veterinary professional compassionate communication, leadership, business management, effective decision making, health-related behavior skills. This semester, you'll build upon & expand knowledge & skills learned previously.

September
- Career: Military

October
- 1 Medical Malpractice
- 2 How to Make A Human Care Reference
- 6 Assessing the Health of a Practice
- 8 Equine Welfare: Equine Welfare
- 12 Why I Love Being a Vet
- 14 Euthanasia: Speaking to Pet Owners
- 22 Your Clinical Year

November

Wildcard Wellness
Completed a 30-minute wellness activity! Upload to Canvas a brief description & photo of your activity by deadline of October 1, 11 AM.

Attendance
Track this week. Enter within 12 weeks. No absences.

Accommodations for Disabilities
The Office of Student Disability Services (OIDS) provides and arranges for students with documented disabilities with appropriate accommodations. The OIDS is the designated office that obtains and verifies disability-related documents, certifies eligibility for services, determines reasonable accommodations, and develops plans for the provision of such accommodations. In post-secondary settings, it is the student's responsibility to request in advance any individual assistance. Students at UTCVM must contact OIDS for testing and documentation, which must be forwarded to UTCVM Academic Dean's Office. CSS documentation must be renewed each semester.
### Sample syllabus structure for K-12 based on selected sections of Biology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic SCIENCE Stage descriptions</th>
<th>Visual interpretation</th>
<th>YEAR GROUPS</th>
<th>Scientific Literacy</th>
<th>Cells</th>
<th>Plants</th>
<th>Plant Leaves/Nutrition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awareness - Stage 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="icon" /></td>
<td>Early Childhood</td>
<td>Stage 1 Awareness</td>
<td>Students are aware of the physical world and can describe objects and phenomena.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="icon" /></td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Stage 2 Describe</td>
<td>Students can describe various types of living things, their structures, and functions.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="icon" /></td>
<td>Junior Secondary</td>
<td>Stage 3 Patterns</td>
<td>Students can investigate patterns in living things, e.g., leaves, stems, flowers, and seeds.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="icon" /></td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Stage 4 Comparing</td>
<td>Students can compare living things with non-living things, e.g., plants and animals.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="icon" /></td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Stage 5 Models</td>
<td>Students can describe the structure of plants and animals, e.g., leaves, stems, and flowers.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="icon" /></td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Stage 6 Quantitative Models</td>
<td>Students can refer to chromosome numbers in various species.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="icon" /></td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Stage 7 Theories and principles</td>
<td>Students can discuss scientific laws and theories.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="icon" /></td>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td>Stage 8 Complex Systems</td>
<td>Students can describe complex systems and their interactions, e.g., energy transfer and storage.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AP LANG & COMP
COURSE SYLLABUS | 2014-15
Mrs. Tricia Ebanvia
bebarvianet
mrsEbanvia.com

WELCOME! AP Lang is a reading and writing intensive course designed to help you become a more critical reader and more authentic writer.

In this course, you will . . .
- zoom in on an author’s craft by identifying and examining rhetorical devices
- analyze individual parts of a text and understand how they fit into the whole
- write with more intention by choosing from a variety of strategies to best suit your purpose
- gain familiarity with the types of questions on the AP exam through repeated practice
- share your writing both in class and in our online classroom
- read thought-provoking materials and discuss your ideas in class regularly

A NEW WAY OF THINKING, READING, AND WRITING
The only way to become a better reader is to read. The only way to become a better writer is to write. And it’s never too late to become better at both.

WHAT WE’LL READ
Textbook: Language of Composition, 2nd ed. (Scardam, Shea & Aunger)

NEW YORK TIMES
WALL STREET JOURNAL
TIME
THE ATLANTIC
THE NEW YORKER
DISCOVER
THE ECONOMIST
FORBES
WIRED and many more!

Lots of reading, lots of writing! It’s the only way to get better at both. As such, you can expect to read and write on a daily basis. Writing assignments will vary, but at the end of the year, you will have a portfolio that includes (but not limited to):

- personal, narrative essays
- persuasive essays
- descriptive writing
- expository writing
- a comprehensive research anthology
- group and individual podcasts
- regular, thoughtful blogging
- research inquiry paper
- timed, In-class writes (AP style)
- weekly annotated readings & reflections
- daily writer’s notebook entries
- visual notes, sketches, and doodles

All assignments should be typed and titled, with author’s note. Assignments due in class must be turned in at the beginning of class. Assignments turned in online are due by 11:30 p.m. on the due date.

Give your best effort daily. Come to class ready to discuss the material. Take risks, experiment and play in your writing. Annotate your readings. Work hard and reap the rewards.

BRING TO CLASS:
- writer’s notebook
- something to write with (current assignment
- thin markers or colored pencils

https://mrsebanvia.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/aplangsyllabus-12.jpg
Wrap-Up

• Have you ever thought approaching syllabus creating so that the syllabus invites students to a course they want to attend?
• What would that look like?
• How different would it be from the syllabus you’re polishing now for fall courses?

Weimer M, *Faculty Focus*, 2011
Go to www.menti.com and use the code 113947

In thinking about my own syllabus:

- I've got work to do
- I'm in pretty good shape, thanks
- I don't know

Slide is not active Activate

Yes, absolutely
Not at all

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Resources