

## Designing a Motivational Syllabus: Creating a Learning Path for Student Engagement by

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# **Syllabus Checklist**

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## **Questions to Consider**

#### Tone

- What is the tone of the syllabus?
- Is it personal and engaging?
- What emotional reaction do you have to this document?
- Do you have a sense of excitement about the course?

#### Value and Purpose

- Do you see the value of the course and understand its purpose?
- Are the learning outcomes clearly defined?
- How would you describe this course to someone?

## **Organization and Clarity**

- Do you know what to do to meet with success and how to access help if needed?
- Is it well organized and easy to follow?
- Can you easily see what is expected of you?
- Were enough details provided?
- Does the syllabus provide you with a clear path to success?
- Were visual tools such as charts used to organize the information and clearly communicate information?

#### **Perception of Professor**

- How would you describe the professor based on this syllabus?
- Do you expect to be challenged and supported by the professor?
- Do you think the professor is excited to teach this course?
- Do you think the professor believes in you?
- Would you be likely to take courses offered by this professor?

#### **Perception of the Course**

- Would you be likely to register for this course?
- What did you like the most about the syllabus?
- What suggestions do you have to make the syllabus better?

## **Essential Components**

#### **Course Information**

- Course name and number
- Course description
- Purpose and value of the course
- Course learning outcomes and connection to program learning outcomes
- Learning objectives for modules, units, or classes
- Overview of course content, including topics
- Location, times, days
- Textbooks and supplemental readings
- Calendar of activities

## **Instructor and Campus Support Information**

- Professor name
- Office location and hours
- Contact information: phone, e-mail address
- Welcome statement and teaching philosophy
- Information on available campus resources
- Tips for success

### **Assignments and Grading Information**

- Grading policy and scale and weighting of assignments toward final grade
- Assignments and descriptions
- Rationale for assignments and link back to course learning outcomes
- Grading details and rubrics
- Course outline with due dates

#### **Policy Information**

- Late and missed work policy
- Attendance policy
- Academic conduct policy, including academic integrity policy
- Disability policy

#### Reference:

Harrington, C., & Thomas, M. (2018). Designing a motivational syllabus: Creating a learning path for student engagement. Sterling, VA: Stylus.

https://sty.presswarehouse.com/Books/BookDetail.aspx?productID=493005