A
WELL-DESIGNED SYLLABUS

UNLOCKS LEARNING

WHAT A GOOD *Syllabus* CONTAINS

My syllabus is usually a long and detailed affair, specifying the daily readings and assignments and grading standards for the entire semester. I design it. Students follow it. End of conversation, right?
-- James M. Lang, "The Promising Syllabus"

"The course calendar needs to be more than a to-do list. Think of the brochure you pick up when you enter a museum: it shows where popular items of interest are located, but you also see them as part of the larger interpretive whole. And it happens in an accessible and compelling way. We should aim for similar effects with our syllabus..." -- Kevin Gannon, "DIY Syllabus"

Outcomes

Clear, Aligned
Appropriate Verbs for
Course Level & Purpose
Achievable
Measurable

What the Course Does

Purpose and Description
Basic Info if Lost on the Subway
Role in Curriculum / Program
Pre- or Co- Requisites

What the Instructor Does

Approach, Philosophy, Style
Course Calendar
Readings, Resources
Grading and Assessment
Course Policies

What the Learner Does

Expectations, Etiquette
Readings + ISBNs
Assignments, Deadlines, Due Dates
What Success Looks Like

Honoring Learner Agency

Leaving space
the "Promising Syllabus"
Inviting Goalsetting
Mild, Medium, Spicy

University
Course #, Section #,
Semester
Credit Hours
Instructor(s)
Contact Info, Office Hours
Day, Time, Location