

## **Learner-Centered Syllabus Resources**

A syllabus conveys important information; it can also help to create a community that encourages students to engage with the material, the instructor, and their peers. In a learner-centered syllabus, the faculty member's voice is clear, and students' voices are also welcomed. This kind of syllabus lets students know why the material is important, how their work builds skills and knowledge, how they are assessed and why, and how to find help if they're struggling. A learner-centered syllabus also offers students opportunities, both as individuals and as a collective, to weigh in on some classroom policies and to make some choices about how to demonstrate what they've learned.

### **Resource Links**

- [Constructing a Learner-Centered Syllabus: One Professor's Journey](#)
- [A Learner-Centered Syllabus Helps Set the Tone for Learning](#)
- [Weekly Digest #64: Preparing a Learning-Focused Syllabus](#)
- [Syllabus Design | Derek Bok Center, Harvard University](#)
- Learner-Centered Syllabus Toolkit (University of British Columbia)  
[https://ctlit2013.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2022/08/CTLT\\_SyllabusToolkit.pdf](https://ctlit2013.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2022/08/CTLT_SyllabusToolkit.pdf)
- A study on syllabi layout:  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S8755461518300392?via%3Dihub>

### **Consider Flexible Course Policies**

Grading policies, flexible absence policies, and "second-chance" policies can all be essential to student success, and may provide the opportunity and motivation students need to recover after a difficult semester start. Second-chance options might include allowing students to complete missed work for full (or partial) credit or allowing students to drop their lowest score from the final calculated grade.

- Designing for Flexibility: Adapting Policies on Student Work  
<https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/21-Course-Design-Flexibility-ALL-Policies.pdf>
- Structure vs. Flexibility: Student Perceptions of Flexibility in Deadlines, Attendance, and Participation Points:  
<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2023/04/07/survey-what-flexibility-mean-college-students>

- Tips for Making your Courses More Accessible:  
<https://teachonline.asu.edu/2018/01/tips-making-courses-accessible/>