



August 2023

Creating A Helpful Syllabus

 **Teaching Beyond
the Podium**

Unleashing the Liquid Syllabus
Taryn T.C. Brown, Ph.D.



Dive into our latest Teaching Beyond the Podium Podcast Episode:

"Unleashing the Liquid Syllabus: Empowering Students" with our guest Dr. Taryrn Brown."

Join us as we chat with Taryrn, an Assistant Professor in Teachers, Schools, and Society in the UF College of Education, and discover the "Liquid Syllabus" – a dynamic approach that can transform student engagement even before the first day of class.

Learn how Taryrn implements interactive multimedia, project-based learning, and tailored content to create a vibrant and useful syllabus that students actually use as a course tool.

[Listen here!](#)

STRATEGY

The Student-Centered Syllabus

A creative and innovative syllabus sets the stage for an inspiring learning journey. The following strategies can make your syllabus visually appealing, relevant, and interactive:

Interactive Syllabus. Create a digital and interactive syllabus using platforms like Canva, Adobe Spark, or Prezi. Incorporate multimedia elements, such as videos, infographics, and interactive links, to make it visually appealing and dynamic.

Visual Learning Pathways. Provide students with a visual representation of the course's learning pathways. This can be in the form of flowcharts, mind maps, or timelines, helping students understand how topics connect and progress throughout the semester.

Highlight Guest Speakers and Events. If applicable, include a section that highlights any guest speakers, workshops, or special events that will take place during the course. This adds excitement and shows the range of opportunities available.

Student-Generated Content. Involve students in the syllabus creation process by allowing them to contribute to certain sections. This can include suggesting relevant resources, co-creating assignment guidelines, or even helping design the syllabus layout.

Provide Flexibility. Be open to adjusting the syllabus based on students' needs and interests. Allow room for flexibility and adaptation throughout the course to ensure it remains relevant and engaging.

Choose-Your-Own-Adventure Options. Offer students different assignment options that cater to their interests or skillsets. Allowing them to choose from various creative projects encourages a sense of ownership in their learning journey.

Gamification Elements. Integrate gamification elements into the syllabus to increase student motivation and engagement. Use badges, points, or levels to reward students for completing certain milestones or demonstrating exceptional effort.

Zamudio-Suarez, F. (2023, July 7). 5 weeks to a better semester.

Zamudio-Suarez, F. (2023, July 23). 5 weeks to a better semester.

AI Tip of the Month

The exponential growth of Generative AI (GenAI) brings with it possibilities and considerations for your classroom. When preparing your syllabus for Fall, take time to reflect on learning goals and teaching practices in light of emerging applications like ChatGPT, Google Bard, and Microsoft Bing.

-Does my department or college offer guidance? How are other faculty in my program integrating GenAI technologies?

Revise your syllabus to include GenAI guidelines. Start conversations with colleagues.

-How do I expect students in my discipline and in my course to interact with GenAI Tools?

Set clear expectations in your syllabus and assignment instructions for students enrolled in your course. Acceptable uses of GenAI will vary in different academic settings and at different levels of learning. [The article Update Your Syllabus for ChatGPT](#) provides helpful tips.

-What are the assignments in my syllabus and how do these meet the learning needs of my students? Do I need to revise any assignments?

Think through assignment types that may benefit from AI tools. For example, drafting or prototyping assignments may align well, whereas self-reflection or scholarly research assignments may not. Check out the CTE article [Chatbots and AI in Education](#) for information on AI Assignment considerations.

CTE Awards

Congratulations to the June Passport to Great Teaching completers! To participate in the Passport to Great Teaching program, visit the [Center for Teaching Excellence's website](#).

Certificates:

Great Teaching Certificate

-Rebecca Koerner

Badges:

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

-Rebecca Koerner

Student Focused Teaching

-Rebecca Koerner

Featured Workshops

Harnessing AI for Teaching and Learning Faculty Learning Community (FLC)

This FLC collectively explores the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) for teaching and learning. In the fall, members of this FLC will participate in a series of active learning workshops to apply AI within a diverse range of educational contexts. In the spring, members will develop or revise course content with AI in mind, leveraging the new opportunities created by AI tools. The FLC will collaborate on Research in Teaching & Learning (RiTl) projects that will be shared with the wider UF community at the semi-annual symposiums.

Meets bi-weekly on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM in the Bryant Space Center. The deadline to apply is August 25.

[Apply now to be a part of the Harnessing AI for Teaching and Learning FLC](#)

Affordable Access for Student Success: An OER Learning Community

If you have been interested in taking first steps to transitioning your course to free or low-cost materials but need support to do so, consider applying to the upcoming OER Learning Community hosted by the Center for Teaching Excellence with support from the Libraries and Center for Instructional Technology and Training. This FLC focuses on open educational resources (OER) and emphasizes ways to adopt, adapt, and share resources that make courses more affordable and inclusive. Please consider applying or encouraging others in your department to apply by August 28, 2023. Questions can be directed to Micah Jenkins, eText Coordinator at CTE, at micahjenkins@aa.ufl.edu.

[Apply now to be a part of the Affordable Access for Student Success: An OER Learning Community](#)



Register for the First Year Faculty Teaching Academy (FYFTA)

The Center for Teaching Excellence offers the First Year Faculty Teaching Academy (FYFTA) workshop series throughout the year. This series is designed for faculty in their first few years of teaching at UF. Learn how to create a great learning experience for your students while saving time and frustration; we invite you to adapt and use the strategies that are right for you.

Fall 2023

Tuesdays, September 5 - October 10 | 2:00pm - 4:00pm ET

Located in Bryant Space Science Center

OR

Wednesdays, October 11 - November 15 | 2:00 - 4:00pm ET

Virtual

[Register for Fall FYFTA.](#)

Helpful Tip

Start the semester off right:

Help students get acquainted with you and your syllabus. Take the time to introduce yourself, and share your background and your passion for your subject matter. Building a personal connection can foster a positive learning environment. Communicate your teaching style by explaining whether you use strategies like interactive lectures, group discussions, or hands-on activities. This will give students an idea of what to expect in

your class. Record a short audio or video introduction to the syllabus. This personal touch can help establish a positive and approachable atmosphere right from the start.

Tech Tip of the Month

In your syllabus, consider giving students an opportunity to “book time with you” for office hours. You can use a personal Microsoft “Bookings with me” page free of charge where students can schedule meetings with you at times you allow. You could even tape a QR code to your office door that links to your Bookings page! Visit your personal Bookings with me page and log in with your UF account to automatically generate an office hours meeting type or learn more about setting up Bookings with me from Microsoft support.

Inspire, Ignite, and Innovate with CTE!

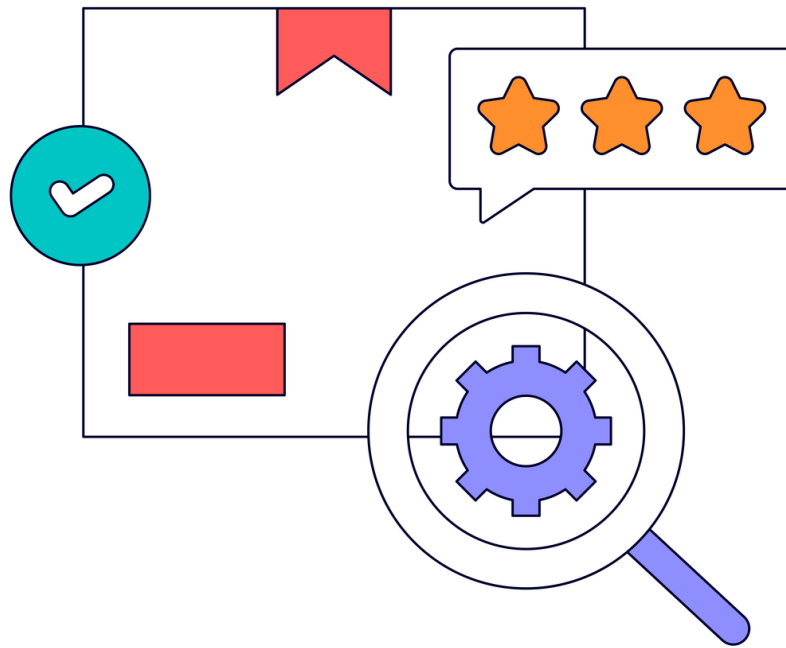
We are always looking for fresh voices to lead workshops, share a passion for teaching in our podcast, and engage with audiences at our Interface Teaching Conference. CTE is dedicated to honoring exceptional teaching. If you or someone you know would like to partner with or should be recognized by CTE please email cte@aa.ufl.edu.

Spotlight



Graduate Student Organization & Resource Fair

The Fall 2023 Graduate Student Organization & Resource Fair on September 13 in the Grand Ballroom, at the Reitz Union from 10am-2pm.



CTE's Online Course Review Working Sessions!

Join the CTE's Online Course Review Working Sessions! Work alongside our dedicated Course Quality team members to navigate the review process, enhance your instructor self-review, and secure a designation for your course. Gain invaluable insights and guidance to emphasize how your course design and instructional practices create exceptional learning experiences! More information will be in next month's newsletter.

Upcoming Workshops

PlayPosit Playlists: Using interactive video to create learning modules in Canvas

Friday, August, 18, 2023 at 1:00 - 2:00 PM EDT

Let us walk you through features of Playlists that create a defragmented learner experience for one-click access to curated content, including PlayPosit bulbs, PDFs, images, docs, sheets, forms, embedded websites, and more. Learners earn a certificate after verified completion. Each Playlist can be customized to require certain behaviors like "mastery based consumption" or locked/unlocked progression. [Register here.](#)

Note: you must have a Passport Account to register for workshops.
[Create an account here.](#)

Upcoming CIRTL Workshops

CIRTL classes fill up fast. Please register today to secure your spot.

An Introduction to Evidence-Based Undergraduate STEM Teaching August 13 @ 12:00 am - 11:30 pm CDT

Presented by CIRTL

An Introduction to Evidence-Based Undergraduate STEM Teaching is a massive open, online course (MOOC) designed to provide graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and other aspiring faculty in STEM disciplines with an overview of effective college teaching strategies and the research that supports them. This course is also suitable for other interested university staff, faculty, and administrators. The goal of the eight-week course is to equip the next generation of faculty to be effective teachers, thus improving the learning experience for the thousands of students they will teach. Past participants are overwhelmingly satisfied with the course (nearly 90% of Summer 2019 students were satisfied or extremely satisfied).

The course draws on the expertise of a variety of STEM faculty, educational researchers, and staff from university teaching centers, many of them affiliated with the CIRTL Network. Topics include key learning principles, such as the role of mental models in learning and the importance of practice and feedback; fundamental elements of course design, including the development of learning objectives and assessments of learning aligned with those objectives; and teaching strategies for fostering active learning and inclusive classroom environments. Formats include video content and transcripts, readings, discussion forums, quizzes, and peer-graded assignments where participants will plan teaching and learning activities relevant to their disciplines. [Register here](#)

TAR Express: A Teaching-as-Research Very Short Course September 13 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT

Explore how you can create, test out, and assess a new approach to your teaching in this short course designed to walk participants through the basis of CIRTL's "Teaching-as-Research" concept. Through Teaching-as-Research (TAR), future faculty can apply their scientific research knowledge to ask and answer a question about teaching and learning. In this three-part short course, participants will learn about and workshop different components of a TAR project, and in between sessions they will have the opportunity to receive one-on-one coaching from course instructors. [More info here.](#)

Registration for this course opens on Monday, August 14.



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