Create an easily navigable course

Introduction

To support learning productivity and prevent students from spending too much time on searching things they need, it is essential to provide a clear and easy to navigate course in Canvas. This can be implemented in several ways:

Easy access to all course content

- Use Canvas as a file repository for a *complete* collection of the course materials (including links to external resources) that students would need to complete the course. Avoid sending additional files to students via emails or other ways, this might make it more difficult for you and your students to keep an overview on the entire course materials.
- Use consistent, short but descriptive names for all materials.
- Organize and present the course materials in a logical and clear structure. See more about this in the document "Organize course content using modules" on the UTwente Canvas website.

Streamlined course menu navigation

By default, a Canvas course uses the UT standard template, which includes **Home**, **Announcements**, **OSIRIS course info, Syllabus**, **Modules**, **Grades, People** as menu items for students. The course template provides consistency across the different courses for the students. It's better to disable standard menu items that are not needed in a course to avoid confusion. For more instructions on configuring the course menu, check it out How do I manage Course Navigation links?

Engaging course Home page

Students entering a course are directed to the course Home page. By default, this is the Modules page with an overview of the course content. To keep students engaged, consider creating a different Home page for the course when:

- A course does NOT follow a one-directional linear flow
- A course has a complex structure and various topics, which are difficult to present within a Module
- A course requires a more inviting and attractive starting page

Alternatively, Syllabus can also be set as the course Home, which gives the students an overview on course introduction, class guidelines and other important information. This provides more in-depth educational information than the administrative OSIRIS course information. Additionally, if using Syllabus as a course Home, you can also benefit from the fact that assignments and other events within a course are automatically listed on the Syllabus page.

You can also rotate different items to be used as the course Home. For example, set Syllabus or a Welcome page when starting a course. After an introduction week, set the Module page as the Home. This gives students different attention while they are following your course. For more instructions on changing Home, check out How do I change the Course Home Page?

Communicate clearly when (certain) results are expected from students

Always consider including a due date for an assignment, which can helps students to plan their time. Advise your students to frequently check the Grades page, where all the assignments from a Canvas course are listed. This gives students a quick overview of the status of their assignment (e.g. late and missing).

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