

E-Learning Course Environment Design Examples, & Rationale



Structure & Clarity

The main landing page should A) cue students to what they should focus on currently and B) locate that focus within the overall structure of the course.

My Home Your Forum Your Files Libraries Help

Planner

Program Sandbox
Planner
Instructor
Library
Calendar
Help Center

Syllabus
Weekly Modules
Course Materials
Discussion
Lectures
Synchronous Sessions
Assignments
My Grades

Previous Weeks
Going Further

Tools

Full tilt ahead.

Instructional Design University

My Announcements

Program Sandbox
› Remember to send picture for Classroom
[more announcements ›](#)

What's New

Edit Notification Settings [Actions](#)

› [Announcements](#)

› [Content](#)

› [Courses/Organizations](#)

Last Updated: March 26, 2014 2:17 PM

My Calendar

2:00 - 3:00 PM on 03/30/14
Post Discussion Response

2:00 - 3:00 PM on 04/06/14
Synchronous Session

2:00 - 3:00 PM on 04/13/14
Project Due
[more calendar events ›](#)

To Do

What's Due
› [All Items \(0\)](#)



Best practices include a centrally compiled schedule, a place for alerts, and upcoming expectations. Consistency in all aspects of the learning environment is important so students know what to expect, where to find things, and what commonly used terms mean in this context. Students will derive meaning from the structure.



E-Learning Course Environment Design Examples & Rationale

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Redundancy

Providing the same materials in multiple places will suit the student's just-in-time needs. For example, even though the Syllabus shows up in the main navigation it will also appear in Week 1 Materials, and often be located on the landing page as well.

The screenshot illustrates a course environment with a left-hand navigation menu and two main content panels. The navigation menu includes links to 'Program Sandbox', 'Planner', 'Instructor', 'Library', 'Calendar', 'Help Center', 'Syllabus', 'Weekly Modules', 'Course Materials', 'Discussion', 'Lectures', 'Synchronous Sessions', 'Assignments', 'My Grades', 'Previous Weeks', 'Going Further', and 'Tools'. The 'Weekly Modules' panel shows a list of weekly milestones, with 'Week 1: Course Milestone Title' highlighted. The 'Course Materials' panel shows three folders: 'Readings by Topic', 'Videos by Topic', and 'Materials by Topic', each with a description of its purpose. A callout box for 'Week 1: Course Milestone Title' provides details on objectives, readings, discussion, lecture, and synchronous session. A speech bubble from a cartoon character emphasizes the importance of smart structures to manage redundancy.

Weekly Modules

- Build Content > Assessments > Tools > Publisher Content >
- Week 1: Course Milestone Title
- Week 2: Course Milestone Title
- Week 3: Course Milestone Title
- Week 4: Course Milestone Title

Course Materials

- Build Content > Assessments > Tools > Publisher Content >
- Readings by Topic**
The purpose of this folder is to arrange materials in redundant ways for easy location.
- Videos by Topic**
The purpose of this folder is to arrange materials in redundant ways for easy location.
- Materials by Topic**
The purpose of this folder is to arrange materials in redundant ways for easy location.

Week 1: Course Milestone Title

- Build Content > Assessments > Tools > Publisher Content >
- Week 1 Objectives**
 - > Concise definition of the first week 1 objective.
 - > Concise definition of the second week 1 objective.
 - > Concise definition of the third week 1 objective.
- Week 1 Readings**
Introduction, Part 1, and Chapter 23 in Text Book
- Week 1 Course Discussion**
Description of the discussion topic and the purpose of the discussion.
- Week 1 Lecture**
Description of the Week 1 Lecture and a link if appropriate.
- Week 1 Synchronous Session**
Please enter as a guest with your first and last name.

Keep in mind the importance of smart structures. Link to one source file from multiple places so that if it is changed, each redundancy doesn't also have to be manually changed.

Automation

Offer pre-built materials that can be automatically filled out by faculty so they do not have to reinvent the wheel each time. It will help accomplish the goals of structure and clarity and help maintain a consistent experience for students across courses.

My Home

Your Forum

Your Files

Libraries

Help

Planner

Program Sandbox

Planner

Instructor

Library

Calendar

Help Center

Syllabus

Weekly Modules

Course Materials

Discussion

Lectures

Synchronous Sessions

Assignments

My Grades

Previous Weeks

Going Further

Full tilt ahead.

Instructional Design Unit

Instructor

Professor of Professor's Discipline, Jane Doe

Email: jane.doe@institution.edu

Work Phone: 404.444.7654

Office Location: Institution of Higher Learning, 451 Main Street, Atlanta, GA 30303; Office Number

Office Hours: Please feel free to call or email me M-F, 8 AM - 5 PM. You can expect a response within 24 hours except weekends and holidays.



Syllabi, faculty introduction pages, assignment descriptions and rubrics, and course schedules are good candidates for templates.

Directions (delete directions prior to uploading to course)

1) Edit this document using MS Word

2) Save the document as an MS Word file (.doc or .docx) and keep for your records

3) Use SAVE AS feature to save this document as Web Page, Filtered (in Windows version) or Filtered HTML (in Mac version)

4) Upload HTML syllabus file to your LCMS (D2L, Blackboard, Angel, Moodle, etc.) to use in your course

When you need to revise your syllabus - open the MS Word file (.doc or .docx) to edit then follow steps 3 and 4 to replace the old version in your LCMS with your revised version. Don't forget to add the revision date info to the document so your students always know if they have the correct version.

(Revision date/time info here)

[COURSE TITLE]

Instructor Contact Info

email, phone, office hours, IM info, and any other contact info you wish the students to have. Make sure to include availability info as well as your statements of how soon students can expect a response from you via email.

Course Overview

Add engaging and relevant intro to course here - consider including info about the overall structure of the course as well as why the course is relevant to the student.

Full tilt ahead.

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Customization

Each course will have its own culture and unique needs. Allowing for customization is a priority to respect creativity and freedom, and acknowledge that every faculty member is a course designer.

The screenshot displays the Full Tilt Ahead LMS interface. At the top, navigation links include 'My Home', 'Your Forum', 'Your Files', 'Libraries', and 'Help'. A 'Planner' section on the left contains icons for a home, envelope, and a list. Below this is a sidebar menu with options: 'Program Sandbox', 'Planner', 'Instructor', 'Library', 'Calendar', 'Help Center', 'Syllabus' (highlighted with a blue dot), 'Weekly Modules', 'Course Materials', 'Discussion', 'Lectures', 'Synchronous Sessions', 'Assignments', 'My Grades', 'Previous Weeks', 'Going Further', and 'Tools'. The main content area shows the 'Syllabus' page for 'XYZ 101 The Study of Information Presentation'. It features a 'Full tilt ahead.' logo with a paper plane icon and the text 'Instructional Design Unit'. The syllabus page has tabs for 'Build Content >', 'Assessments >', 'Tools >', and 'Publisher Content >'. The content area displays a circular diagram with four segments labeled A, B, C, and D, each containing an icon and text. To the right of the diagram are four circular callouts labeled 'PROJECT', 'CONCEPT', 'LOREM IPSUM', and 'DESIGN', each with a 'Step 1' and 'Step 2' sub-label.



Faculty members, teaching assistants and instructional designers will appreciate having the space to fully control their own materials and the luxury of not having to build it from the ground up.



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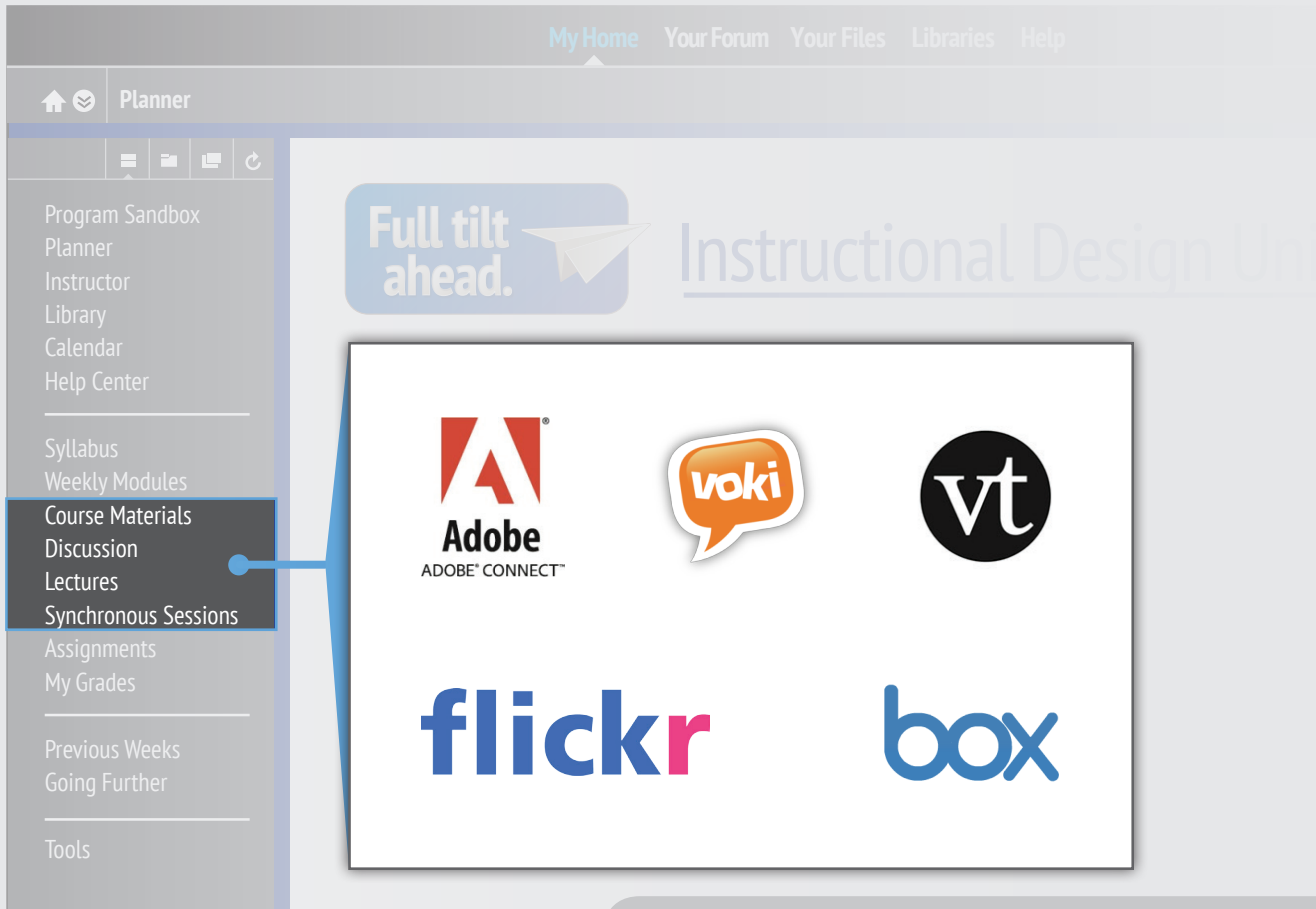
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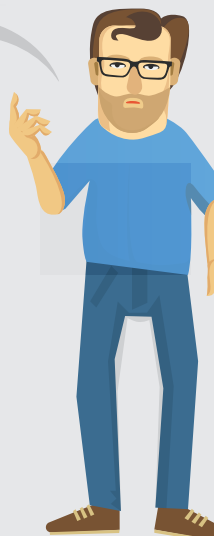
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Engagement

Supporting integration for a variety of media and forums focused on interaction will keep students and instructors engaged.



There are many technology integration tools for every teaching objective and style. Online conversation through text and webcams, and rich media for course materials, will aid in keeping everyone engaged.



**Full tilt
ahead.**



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Full Tilt Ahead

BRAINS



DESIGN

Roxanne Russell has over eighteen years' experience and expert credentials as an educator, researcher, and instructional designer. Dr. Russell has extensive expertise in research examining the design, development, implementation and impact of digital media for public and private sector instructional design, evaluation, and performance improvement.

BRAWN



DEVELOP

Adarsh Char is an Ed Tech executive with over 22 years of experience in the field, and focuses on functional and UI/UX design of systems, development processes, and technology environments, using industry best practices as a Project Management Professional and Certified ScrumMaster.

BEAUTY



DELIVER

Chip Evans is a graphic designer with over 15 years of experience in the visual communication field. Chip's extensive background in marketing, business development, communication design and delivery have led to his winning over 26 awards in print design from MARCOM, PRSA, IABC, CASE, and Georgia Tech.

