

# CONTENTS OF COURSE SYLLABUS

As the primary, commonly available, summary of a course, the syllabus serves several purposes. It outlines the course, it denotes what students may expect from the course, and it locates the course in the curriculum. Not only read by prospective students, it is the best, concise, description of a course by those who teach it that is available to students and colleagues. The University Committee on Courses uses course syllabi in its review of courses. To maximize the usefulness of a syllabus to students and faculty, it is suggested that it contain the following:

1. Course Number
2. Title
3. Credits
4. Term, place, time, instructor  
(For a new course proposal, indicate when it is likely to be offered, and how frequently)  
(For a new course proposal, indicate who is likely to teach the course)
5. Place in Curriculum
  - Group requirement satisfying? (Explain why)
  - Multicultural requirement satisfying? (Explain why)
  - Other general education requirement satisfying?
  - Satisfying other major or program requirement?
  - Preparatory for other courses?
  - Prerequisites or other suggested preparation.
6. Format (Lecture, Discussion, Lab, . . .)
7. Outline of subject and topics explored
8. Course materials (Texts, books, readings, . . .)
9. Expectations for students
  - Explicitly (by pages assigned, lengths of assignments, etc.), or by
  - Expected student engagement (see suggested Student Engagement Inventory)
  - Readings
  - Problems
  - Attendance
  - Project
  - Writing
  - Laboratory
  - Field work
  - Electronic media/network/online
  - Performance
  - Presentation
  - Tests
  - Differential expected for graduate work for joint 400/500 level courses.
10. Assessment
  - Methods (testing, homework, . . .)
  - Times or frequency
  - Grading policy

[See Faculty Handbook for other recommendations regarding university policies.]

## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INVENTORY

To aid in assigning student credit hours uniformly to courses in the curriculum, the committee inventories the amount of student engagement in a course. The committee has found the following tool to be useful. Departments preparing course proposals are invited to use this, when deciding how many SCH units to request for a proposed course, and encouraged to report to the committee how this tool may be improved for their use.

Please identify the number of hours a typical or average student would be expected to spend in each of the following activities. The general guideline is that each credit should reflect 30 hours of student engagement. Therefore, a 3-credit course would engage students for 90 hours total among the activities listed below, whereas a 4-credit course would list 120 hours of activities in which students are engaged over the course of the term.

Educational activity	Hours student engaged	Explanatory comments (if any):
Course attendance		
Assigned readings		
Project		
Writing assignments		
Lab or workshop		
Field work/experience		
Online interaction		
Performances/creative activities		
<b>Total hours:</b>		

### Definition of terms:

Course attendance	Actual time student spends in class with instructor or GTF
Assigned readings	Estimated time it takes for a student with average reading ability to read all assigned readings
Writing assignments	Estimated time it takes for a student with average writing ability to produce a final, acceptable written product as required by the assignment
Project	Estimated time a student would be expected to spend creating or contributing to a project that meets course requirements (includes individual and group projects)
Lab or workshop	Actual time scheduled for any lab or workshop activities that are required but are scheduled outside of class hours
Field work/experience	Actual or estimated time a student would spend or be expected to spend engaged in required field work or other field-based activities
Online activities	Actual or estimated time a student would spend or be expected to spend engaged in online activities directly related to the course, separate from online research required for projects or writing assignments
Performances /creative activities	Actual or estimated time a student would spend or be expected to spend outside of class hours engaged in preparing for required performance or creative activity