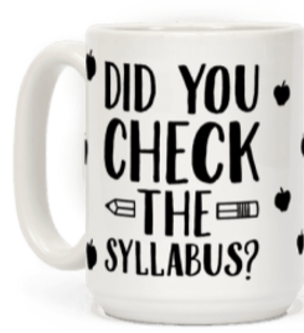VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

Dear Colleagues:

It's a new semester, and we have the new Simple Syllabus development tool. However, the definition of a syllabus remains the same. It lets students know what the course is about, why the course is taught, where it is going, and what will be required for them to be successful in the course (Altman & Cashin, 2003).

How do you know if your students have read their syllabus? In this issue, we will tell you how you can use Simple Syllabus to track your student engagement with your syllabus.

Is your syllabus learner-centered? Read about writing a "Warm Syllabus" that can help students to learn.

We also want to thank all of our faculty who have become early adopters of Simple Syllabus. Meet our faculty Summer Pilot Pioneers & Fall Semester Super Stars!

From,
The Office of Instructional Technology, Design, & Assessment (ITDA)

Blackboard Student View is Back on!

Blackboard has this button panel located in the upper right-hand corner of each course. Click the dot icon between the circling arrows shown here on the left to enter into Student View.

Track Student Engagement with Syllabi

- Navigate to the web version of your syllabus
- At the top of the published syllabus, you will see a blue horizontal bar
- Hover over the bar to display the number of students engaged or not engaged
- Click on the bar for a more detailed breakdown of syllabus engagement by student

Student Acknowledgement of the Syllabus
Your students will receive a prompt when first opening their syllabi, and will be able to acknowledge they have read the syllabus after reading through it entirely

Read about this and more Simple Syllabus features at their knowledge base "**The Hub**." Join this community to access How-To Articles, FAQs, & Video Tutorials.

Click Here to create a Hub account

Pedagogical Pragmatics (P²): Writing a Warm SYLLABUS

Oregon State University Center for Teaching and Learning

What is a warm syllabus?

A warm-tone syllabus establishes a rapport between you and your students. It allows communication for the course expectations and is personalized to the instructor. Click on image below to access the full article.

IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

Helpful Tips

From the Desk of Cynthia Rutz, Director
Valparaiso Institute for Teaching and Learning (VITAL)

Meet our Summer Semester Simple Syllabus Faculty Pilot Pioneers!
This summer several VU faculty piloted Simple Syllabus. In this article two faculty--Theresa Carroll (College of Nursing & Health Professions) and David Rolling (Kinesiology)-- talk about their successes and challenges with Simple Syllabus. Note that the provost has said "Faculty are encouraged to use this tool for all classes at Valpo this year. Starting in fall 2023, we will begin collecting all syllabi across campus each semester using the Simple Syllabus format for our Higher Learning Commission accreditation." So read on to learn more about how your colleagues adjusted to this new tool.

Read the Full Article Here: VU Faculty Test-drive Simple Syllabus

Meet our Fall Semester Simple Syllabus Faculty Superstars!

Lisa Jennings, Director of Valpo CORE
Lisa developed a Simple Syllabus template for 27 course sections and shared it with 21 instructors. Core is about what it means, what it has meant, and what it will mean in the future to be human. The Valpo Core is a two-semester, eight-credit course required of all first-year students except those enrolled in the Christ College Freshman Program. Core is designed to welcome and initiate new students into the Valparaiso University community, and into academic life generally, by putting them in dialogue with great teachers, great texts, and each other.

Tricia Armstrong, Director of Academic Success Center
Tricia developed a Simple Syllabus template that was shared across 14 course sections and to nearly 225 students. The ASC coordinates a variety of programs and services to support academic achievement, including the Peer Tutoring Center (serving many 100 and 200-level courses), the Supplemental Instruction (SI) Program, and GS-100: Strategies for Academic Success (1-credit college success skills course).

Faculty Training Coming Soon

- *Simple Syllabus*
- *Blackboard*

-New Master Course Shell Template
-Base Navigation
-Grade Center
-Assessments
-Rubrics

FOR ITDA ASSISTANCE, SUBMIT A REQUEST HERE

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