

Creating Accessible Online Course Content with Canvas

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When we say “Accessible”

- Strategies
 - Hearing impaired
 - Blind or low vision
- UDL (Universal Design for Learning) Principles

What We Will Cover Today

- Items to consider when creating a Canvas Page
 - Layout/Organization
 - Headings
 - Images
 - Links/URLs
 - Color
 - Tables
 - Videos

Layout/Organization

- Provide a title for the page
- Organize the content
- Include section headings
- Consistent style
- Clear, consistent navigation structure
- Bad Example
- Good Example

Headings

- Example

H2

Heading 2

Apply to the main heading/title of the page. There should only be one per page.

H3

Heading 3

Apply to the sub-sections underneath the main heading.

H4

Heading 4

Apply to the sub-headings underneath the sub-sections.

IDL6543 Fall2012

Pages

IDL6543 Course Orientation Activities

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Page history

IDL6543 Course Orientation Activities

It is very important to design an online course in a way that supports students to get started on the right foot. This means that when a student logs in to your course for the first time, they can easily navigate to the pertinent areas (syllabus, schedule, teacher introduction). A well-designed course ensures that your students will not have to spend time searching for what they need, and instead focus their full attention on the actual content in your course.

This module serves as an example of an online course orientation. As you complete the orientation activities, reflect on your experiences as a student in this course (for instance, can you easily find what you need?), and think about how you might orient students to your own online courses.

Assignment Overview

- Take the Instructure Canvas Student Tour
- Review the Explanation of Research letter
- Complete the Syllabus Quiz with a score of 80% or higher
- Post to the Introduction Discussion

Assignment Details

Take the Instructure Canvas Student Tour

At UCF, we brand our learning management system (LMS) "Webcourses@UCF." As you may already know, UCF announced that Instructure Canvas will be the LMS beginning in Spring 2013. Since this fall semester is a pilot for Canvas, we are temporarily calling this system Webcourses2@UCF. Therefore, IDL6543 is being delivered in Webcourses2@UCF Canvas.

Images

- Avoid purely decorative images or those which distract from the main content.
- Alternative text: provides a textual alternative to non-text content in web pages

(WebAim.org)

Images: Alternative Text

Important for:

- Users with visual impairments
- Users have chosen not to view images
- Users who don't load unsecure content
- [Example](#)

Links/URLs

- Create brief link phrases
- Linked text is descriptive (e.g., UCF Homepage) instead of just “Click here.”
- Example

Color

- Do not use color alone to convey meaning
- Text colors on a page are kept to a minimum
- Text and background demonstrate good color contrast

Color/Contrast

- Utilize the WebAIM Color Contrast Checker
- Minimum acceptable criteria for normal size text is 4.5.
- Minimum acceptable criteria for large size text is 3.1.
- Example

Text

- Canvas by default uses Helvetica which is a sans serif font type.

- Text is large enough to be read on a computer screen.

- Use consistent coloring to display text in a sentence, paragraph, or page.

- Text and background demonstrate good color contrast

Tables

- Tables should be used for data display, not layout
- Column or row headings can be added in MSWord however not carried over to Canvas.
- Manually add column or row headings in Canvas HTML editor
- [Example](#)

Videos: Scripting

- Easy to add captions
- Ensures important points are covered
- Easy to make updates/edits
- Cheaper than paying a transcriptionist

Videos: Captions

Why caption when you don't have students with hearing impairments in your class?

- LD and ESOL
- Learn difficult terminology
- Convenience

Captioning Resources

- [Captioning a video uploaded to Canvas](#)
- [Youtube Auto Captioning](#)
- [Youtube Self-Captioning Service](#)

Thank you!

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- All presentation materials are available at <https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1003256>