Office of Teaching, Learning & Technology

What students wish you would do in ICON

SITA Program
Spring 2021
Tips For This Training

→ This training is being recorded.
→ Adjust the auto-captions to suit your needs.
→ Please mute yourself when not talking.
→ Use the chat any time.

→ Need more help? Contact the ITS Help Desk.
  • Email: its-helpdesk@uiowa.edu
  • Phone: (319)384-HELP(4357)
Training Agenda

→ Overview
→ Organizing content & communicating the weekly course schedule
→ Proper gradebook setup
→ Gathering and utilizing student feedback
→ Creating accessible content
Overview

- Students have been using ICON more than ever before
- Addressing these aspects of your course can encourage student engagement and improve their experiences
- There are trends in student preferences for ICON sites
  - SITA experiences, *Looking Forward to Fall* USG survey, discussions with peers
  - Focusing on these preferences can make course planning efficient and effective
- Issues are not in the information, but how it is presented
Part 1

Organize content & communicate the weekly course schedule
Utilize the course Home Page

→ Course Home Page is the landing page for the course
→ Home Page should capture commonly used content or important information in the course
→ Navigation tabs on left side allow access to other features of course
  - Unused features from the Navigation tabs should be removed
Create effective Modules

→ Modules serve as a folder for your course materials
→ Modules can contain assignments, pages, external links, discussions etc.
→ Modules have informative titles and headers
→ Modules are well grouped and categorized
  • By week/unit/major assignment
→ Modules are organized chronologically
  • Include dates in module title
Organize content & communicate the weekly course schedule
Part 2

Make grading clear to students
Setting up the gradebook

➔ An Assignment is anything that is graded and/or requires an action by the student other than opening content
  • Quizzes, Discussions, Assignments, Attendance
➔ Assignments are connected to the gradebook of the course
Organizing the gradebook
• Assignment groups
• Weighted vs. unweighted groups
• Posting policies

Setting up gradebook early
Update often
Explain the gradebook to students

→ Weighted vs. unweighted
  • If weighted: only compare points for assignments in same group
  • If unweighted: can compare point values across gradebook

→ "What if?" grades
  • Can test in Student View

→ Final policies
  • Curving/grade distribution
  • Rounding
Bad:

- Unfinished grading is being published automatically
- No automatic late policy
Site Comparison - Gradebook

Bad:

• Ability to see total score (and thus to test "what-if" scores) disabled
Site Comparison - Gradebook

**Good:**

- Assignments that aren't finished being graded for everyone remain unpublished
- Clear automatic deduction on late submissions
Site Comparison - Gradebook

Good:

- Ability to see total score (and thus to test "what-if" scores) stays on
Part 3

Gathering student feedback
Ungraded Surveys & Discussion Boards

➤ Ungraded Surveys
   • Option under Quiz Type setting
   • Same features available as Graded Quiz
     • Question types, review in SpeedGrader
   • Effective for individual feedback

➤ Discussion Boards
   • Ungraded by default
   • Effective for long-term feedback opportunities
   • Encourages discussion between students
Site Comparison – Gathering feedback

Bad:

• Lack of continual or regular feedback mechanism
• Feedback difficult to reference for future course sessions
Site Comparison – Gathering feedback

Good:

• Continual feedback opportunities
  • Reminders
• Ease in referencing for planning & improving future course activities
Part 3

Accessibility
UDOIT

- Accessibility check tool integrated with ICON
  - No installation or outside preparation required

- Checks for common accessibility issues
  - Alt text, table headers, color contrast, text structure

- Tool can help you fix many errors/suggestions on results page
Run a UDOIT report

- Click UDOIT tab in course navigation
  - Enable through Navigation tab in Settings if not visible on left menu
- Check content you would like to scan
- Click "Scan"
- Use results to modify content
  - Manually go to content or use UFIXIT
Part 4

Summary
Summary

→ It is best to focus on these features of your course as early as possible
  • Maximize student engagement
  • Limit unnecessary questions during busier portions of semester
  • Prevent accessibility issues before they occur
→ After doing this once, you can copy/fine tune it for future semesters!
  • SITAs happy to help with this
Part 5

Questions
Need Help?

→ **Request a consultation**, with follow-up support as needed, to discuss course structure, communication strategies, course facilitation, and more.

→ Ask a SITA for Technical Consultation
  - [SITA@uiowa.edu](mailto:SITA@uiowa.edu)

→ **Contact the ITS Help Desk** for technical troubleshooting or technology issues/questions.
Further Resources

➔ Office of Teaching Learning and Technology
  • https://teach.its.uiowa.edu/

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