# VISUAL SYLLABUS

## Purpose

The purpose of a visual syllabus is to help students become aware of how the course learning outcomes and major themes are aligned to evaluation and assessment. It also helps students anticipate when major themes and outcomes will be addressed throughout the course.

## Overview

A visual syllabus breaks down the information from a traditional course outline into digestible, visual parts. The first step is to reduce text to only the essential information with a bit of added information where you think some flare is needed. Second is to divide it into sections; think about your course in portions. What are your major areas that you need to cover? Consider things like learning objective, major course themes, assessment, and grading. Step three is using graphics: collect pictures and graphics that match in style and that will work throughout your syllabus.

## Context

This inclusive course and curriculum design strategy has been effectively used in both classroom and online settings. It is particularly useful for hybrid courses and can be used with any class size.

## Impact

The visual syllabus is a quick and easy way to make a meaningful impact with students. Generally, students appreciate the visual representation of the course and gain a better understanding of what the course is trying to achieve in a transparent and accessible manner. For example, knowing that an assignment is connected to a course outcome helps students understand why it is a higher weighted assignment. Overall, students like to understand where they are headed in a course and the graphic syllabus communicates several key pieces of information to your students in a unique way.