

LIQUID SYLLABUS

Purpose

The liquid syllabus is a helpful tool to reach students in a friendly manner that humanizes your teaching. It serves as an opportunity to make a connection with students at the beginning of a semester and potentially reduce student anxiety.

Overview

The liquid syllabus is an accessible, open-access website that serves as an orienting document to a course much like a syllabus. Instructors are encouraged to take the information from their course outlines and teaching and learning plans (TLPs) and present that information in a web-based, mobile friendly format. By including a brief welcome video of yourself and additional relevant information, you can help students navigate the first few weeks of your course and beyond!

Context

Annette has used the liquid syllabus in online courses with class sizes ranging from 31-80 students. The choice to create a liquid syllabus was influenced by the shift to online teaching in Fall 2020 as a solution to challenges in reaching and connecting with students at the beginning of term. Its use, however, does not have to be restricted to online courses and is available for use by instructors of face-to-face, blended, and online courses of all sizes. Michelle Pacansky-Brock developed the liquid syllabus and you can read more about it at her website: <https://brocansky.com/2020/06/humanizing-pre-course-contact-with-a-liquid-syllabus.html>

Impact

The liquid syllabus has generated positive responses from students. Many students have thanked Annette for creating this resource and the liquid syllabus has made for fewer “panicky” emails at the start of the semester. It has also signaled to students that their instructor is approachable and served as the basis for building relationships between student and instructor.

Check out these liquid syllabi from Annette:

Winter 2021 CNST1014:

<https://sites.google.com/view/winter2021cnst1014/home>

Winter 2021 CNST1013: <https://sites.google.com/view/cnst1013-estimating/home>