Showcase: Design Templates

Introduction

This showcase contains examples of Canvas courses that highlight some of the different techniques for content and course delivery. These courses also contain examples of how Canvas tools can be used to facilitate learning among students and to present information.

If you have any questions about the tools, resources, or examples provided in this showcase or would like to use them to design or redesign your online course, please contact an instructional designer.

Interior Design 1010 (Showcase Design Template Modules 1) is a fully online course showcasing a custom homepage with the use of modules as the design layout option for delivering course content.

- When we first enter the course, we see a homepage with a custom banner. Creating custom banners is another service WSU Online provides faculty. Contact an instructional designer for more information on custom banners.
- Next we see a welcome paragraph introducing the course and the fact the course is taught fully online. There is also a paragraph about the learning management system Canvas and a link to the Canvas Student Quick-start Guide where students can learn about all the features in Canvas.
- After the introduction paragraphs, we see what needs to be done in order to get started in the course. This statement with accompanying links provides the students with clear direction immediately upon entering the course.
- The Getting Started statement then leads to a few links the instructor feels are particularly important. These include the:
  - Course syllabus
  - Exam Information which links to a custom page
  - Instructor Information which also links to a custom page providing students with some basic information about the instructor and adding a human touch to the course.
  - And finally a link to the Modules.
- As we scroll through the modules we see the same basic layout to each module: a chapter overview followed by a writing assignment and then an applied learning activity. The consistency in module layout and content easily allows the student to work through all required content in the course.

The Adjunct Symposium (Showcase Design Template Modules 2) is a face-to-face professional development program which relies heavily on the use of Canvas for content delivery. As we can see, this course also showcases a custom homepage with the use of
modules as the design layout option. In this course each module starts with an overview page of the topic and then moves into the topic content including articles, web links, assignments, and discussions.

**Education 1010** (Showcase Module Organization) provides one more example of the modular layout option. The specific organization tip to notice in this course is the way the module content is organized. Each module starts with a topic overview which is then followed by three different sections: Prepare (Activate), Gather, and Apply.

In the Prepare (Activate) section students complete an assignment, in this case a discussion, that initiates the student into the concept being presented without providing too much guidance. After the “Prepare” activity, students move into the “Gather” section where they are directed to resources that assist to develop the concepts and theoretically apply the information. Finally students enter the “Apply” section where they implement the information and materials acquired in the “Prepare” and “Gather” sections.

**The Increasing Engagement Workshop** (Showcase: Design Template Pages 1) is a fully online open-enrollment workshop sponsored by WSU Online. This course showcases the use of Pages as the design layout option. From the homepage we see a note directing students to click on each of the objectives to access materials and research related to each topic. From the objective link, all topic information is contained on a page. Additionally, there are no other navigational links.

**WSU Blended Learning Program** (Showcase: Design Template Pages 2) is another face-to-face professional development program which relies heavily on the use of Canvas for content delivery. This course showcases another use of pages as the design layout option. From the homepage all content navigational links are contained in the “Start Here” table. When we click on a link, we are taken to a page that contains all information relating to that topic. Additionally, because this is a pages layout, we have added custom navigation at the bottom of each page directing the student to the next content page.

**Professional Sales 3363** (Showcase: Design Templates Syllabus) is a fully online course showcasing the Syllabus with Assignment List as the design layout option.

**Professional Sales 1503** (Showcase: Design Template Other - Tabs) is a fully online course showcasing a unique Pages design option with tabs. The homepage has a custom header and two tabs: one for the Syllabus and one for the Assignments. The syllabus tab contains all pertinent syllabus information. The Assignment tab uses icon images, as well as text, to direct students to the required assignments. Each assignment has a detailed outline including the Summary, Objectives, Information Source(s), Instructions and the Assignment.
Other than the links for the Announcements, Grades, People and Chat there are no other navigational needs.

**Conclusion**

We hope this showcase of courses has sparked some ideas for you in creating and organizing your online or web-enhanced course.

Again, if you have any questions about the tools, resources, or examples provided in this showcase or would like to use them to design or redesign your online course, please contact an instructional designer.