

Policy on Course Syllabi

To facilitate clear communication about courses between students and faculty, the University of Florida has adopted this policy requiring departments and course instructors to make available for free for each course, a syllabus containing specific information about the structure of the course. Instructors also must submit copies of course syllabi to the departmental office to document compliance with this syllabus policy.

Please note this policy is not course-content oriented. What individual instructors deem important as technical information in their courses and syllabi is a matter of academic freedom and best determined by that instructor. This university policy relates only to information that must appear in common in all course syllabi, independent of course level or discipline.

A. All UF course syllabi must contain:

1. Course title, instructor's contact information including office location, telephone number, and email address; TA contact information if applicable
2. Office hours for the instructor (and TA if applicable) during which students may meet with the instructor(s)
3. Course objectives and/or goals
4. A weekly course schedule of topics and assignments
5. Methods by which students will be evaluated and their grade determined
6. A statement related to class attendance, make-up exams and other work such as:
"Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>."
7. A statement related to accommodations for students with disabilities such as:
"Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester."
8. A list of all required and recommended textbooks
9. Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points
This may be achieved by including a link to the web page: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.
10. A statement informing students of the online course evaluation process such as:
"Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>."
11. Materials and Supplies Fees, if any

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B. Online course syllabi recommendation.

It is recommended that syllabi include a statement about preferred methods for public and private communication regarding the course and a method for resolving technical issues (e.g. <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>).

C. The following content is suggested:

1. Critical dates for exams or other work
2. Class demeanor expected by the professor (late to class, cell phones, etc.)
3. The university's honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.

Suggested wording:

“UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.”

4. Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.

<http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

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Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints Campus:

https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

D. Additional Information:

Instructors are reminded that any use of students as subjects in research projects **MUST** receive clearance from the "human subjects" board **PRIOR** to beginning the project. This policy also includes any survey research or research done by undergraduate or graduate students for class assignments.

The syllabi for all courses and sections offered each semester must be posted on publicly accessible websites. A college may choose to meet this requirement by posting all its syllabi on a single site or on the web pages of individual departments. Syllabi must be posted at least three days prior to the first day of classes and must be retained on this site for at least three complete semesters (counting summer as a single semester).

For an example of a syllabus, see the [attached].

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to Dr. Chris Hass, Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs, at 392-4792.