

An aerial photograph of the University of Vermont campus during sunset. A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky, which is filled with soft, colorful clouds. The campus features a prominent brick clock tower with a white cupola, surrounded by various red brick buildings and green lawns. A road with a white line runs along the right side of the image.

UVM Center for Teaching & Learning

Welcome New Faculty!

Brightspace Quick Start

Aug 19, 2025

Goals for the Session

Provide an overview of
Brightspace's navigation & features

Highlight some Brightspace features that are
aligned with equitable teaching principles

Outline concrete next steps

Address general questions



AGENDA

What Can You Do with Brightspace?

- Brightspace Feature Overview
- But Wait, There's More!

Finding Your Way In Brightspace

A Quick Tour: Course Home Page, Table of Contents, & Finding Course Tools

Equity Principles & Brightspace Tools

- Creating a Welcoming Environment - Announcements, Welcome Quiz
- Help Students Stay Organized – Calendar, Due Dates, Completion Tracking
- Improve Accessibility Course Materials Using Ally

Concrete Next Steps & Questions

FEATURE OVERVIEW

Tools for quizzes, tests, assignments, and discussions

Customizable gradebook

Ability to provide text (inline comments & rubric), audio, and video feedback

Tools to help students stay organized such as Calendar, Checklists and Completion Tracking

Ability for you to experience your course as a student, using the Student View Account feature

Accessibility features to help identify and correct inaccessible course materials

Integrated with UVM's Student Information System

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

iClicker (sync data from class session to Grades)

Yellowdig

Gradescope

Perusall

TurnItIn

Respondus Lockdown Browser & Monitor

Publisher's Building Blocks

Ally

QUICK TOUR – FINDING YOUR COURSE

BRIGHTSPACE.UVM.EDU



Holly Buckland Parker



[My Home](#) [Calendar](#) [Quick Eval](#) [Discover](#) [Help & Resources](#) [ePortfolio](#)

Welcome to Brightspace!

My Courses

[All](#) [Pinned](#) [Fall 2023](#) [Fall 2024](#) [Migrated](#) [Next](#) [More](#)



Inactive

EDHI387OL1
Teaching/Learning in
Higher Ed



Inactive

EDHI387OL1:
Teaching/Learning in
Higher Ed

Announcements

There are no announcements to display.

Calendar

Thursday, August 15, 2024

QUICK TOUR- COURSE HOME PAGE

 University of Vermont

Teaching Equitably Online

 MS Michele Smolik

Course HomeContent & ActivitiesGrades & Feedback ▾Course Tools ▾Course AdminHelp & Resources ▾



Welcome Michele to Teaching Equitably Online

Announcements ▾

Welcome Announcement ▾

×

Posted by Michele Smolik

Welcome to Teaching Equitably Online! I'm so excited to have you here and can't wait to start this journey with you.

The **Introduction Module** and **Getting Started Module** are already live in Brightspace to help you ease into the course before we officially begin on January 2, 2025.

Here's what to focus on:

For the Introduction Module (due by January 2):

- Watch my introductory video.
- Read the "Understanding Positionality" page.
- Complete the Self-Reflection Activity (**this is just for you - no need to submit!**).
- If you like, explore the optional supplemental readings.

For the Getting Started Module (due by January 3):

Calendar ▾

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Upcoming events ▾

JAN	12:00 AM
2	Teaching Equitably Online is Self-Paced!

QUICK TOUR – CONTENT & ACTIVITIES

Search Topics

Syllabus

Bookmarks

Course Schedule

Table of Contents 45

Getting Started 9

Introductory Module - Reflecting on Positionality 4

Jan 2 & 3: Module 1 - Welcoming Students & Fostering a Sense of Belonging Begins January 2 7

January 6 & 7: Module 2 - Deconstructing the Hidden Curriculum Begins January 6 6

January 7: "Let's Connect" Hours (Optional) 1

Jan 8 & 9: Module 3 - Supporting Learning and Metacognitive Development 7

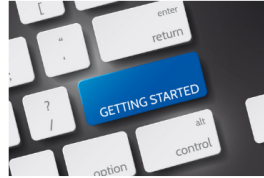
Table of Contents

Print Settings

Import Course Bulk Edit Related Tools Expand All Collapse All

Getting Started

Welcome to Teaching Equitably Online!



The "**Getting Started**" module outlines your first steps in the course. Please read the **Course Syllabus** (located in the syllabus section under the green navigation bar) for an overview of the goals, structure, and key dates.

Next, review the **Course at a Glance** table for a snapshot of what needs to be done, all in one place; more details are in each individual module.

Complete the Syllabus Quiz, the Getting to Know You Survey, and the required Intro Post (this post is due January 3, 2025) - these tasks should take ~15 minutes. Finally, don't forget to check out our bios! 😊

Once you complete these activities, please **proceed to the "Reflecting on Positionality" module** prior to the official course start date (January 2). While this introductory module has no required activities, it does pose questions for you to reflect upon as you design equitable learning environments.

Upload / Create Existing Activities

Getting Started Checklist

QUICK TOUR- FINDING COURSE TOOLS

The University of Vermont

CTL0123K: Starting Small with Brightspace

Course Home Content & Activities Grades & Feedback Course Tools Course Admin Help & Resources

Starting Small with Brightspace

Assignments

Calendar

Discussions

Quizzes

Groups

Self Assessments

Course Builder

Course Availability

Add/Remove Student View Account

Self-Enrollment Link

Announcements

Welcome

Michele Smolik posted on Aug 17, 2023 1:26 PM

Welcome to Starting Small with Brightspace: 1+1 approach

This workshop was designed for instructors who are new to Brightspace in the Fall 2023 and just starting to learn Brightspace. It presents a low stress, small approach to using Brightspace quickly. You can learn much more about Brightspace later in the semester, but if you're just getting started now, we recommend this 1+1 approach.

Show All Announcements

August 21, 2023

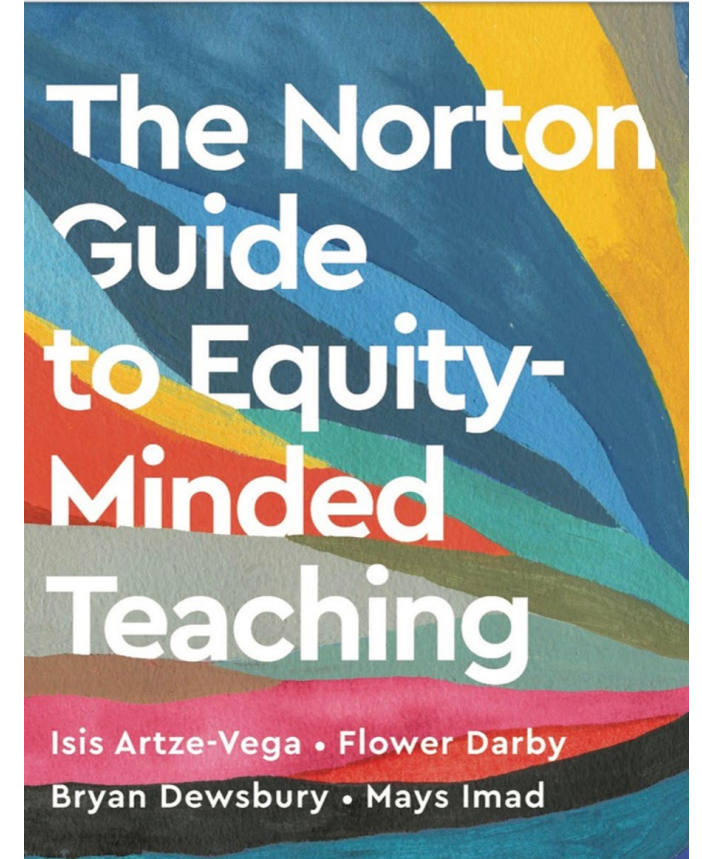
Assignment events

AUG 25 11:59 PM Assignment 1 - Due

EQUITY PRINCIPLES & BRIGHTSPACE

"Educational equity recognizes that each student is starting from a different place and that many of the teaching practices that may have worked for us when we were students are not serving our current students well."

- Creating a Welcoming Environment - Announcements, Syllabus Quiz
- Help Students Stay Organized – Calendar, Due Dates, Completion Tracking, Checklist
- Improve Course Accessibility Using Ally

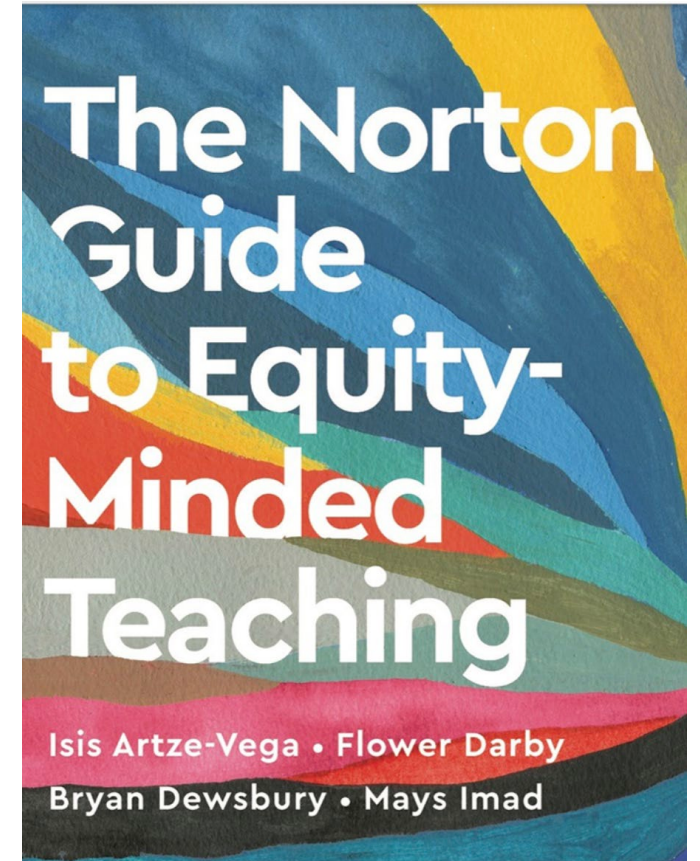


Artze-Vega, I., Darby, F., Dewsbury, B., Imad, M., 2023, The Norton Guide to Equity Minded Teaching, p.xxii.

EQUITY PRINCIPLE: CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

"If you do nothing else to help your students realize that you absolutely think they belong and will support them, tell them so. State clearly from the start that they unequivocally belong, that you're glad they're in your class, and you'll advocate for them. That direct communication will immediately alleviate some of the uncertainty and anxiety most of them feel on Day 1."

Sending students regular Brightspace Announcements is one small way to help cultivate a welcoming environment and a sense of belonging.



Artze-Vega, I., Darby, F., Dewsbury, B., Imad, M.,
2023, The Norton Guide to Equity Minded
Teaching, p.129.

WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT PUBLISHED TO HOME PAGE



CTL0123D: Brightspace Content



Wendy Verrei



[Course Home](#) [Content & Activities](#) [Grades & Feedback](#) [Course Tools](#) [Course Admin](#) [Help & Resources](#)

Brightspace Course Design

Announcements

Welcome Wendy to the Course!



Wendy Verrei posted on Aug 18, 2024 3:14 PM • Edited

Dear Wendy, I am excited for the fall semester! Please know that my goal is to make this a meaningful and successful experience for you.

[Show All Announcements](#)

Calendar

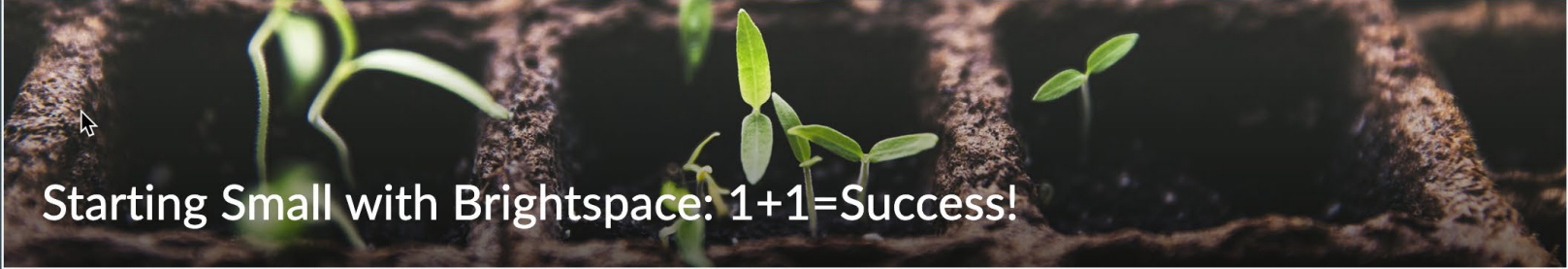
Sunday, August 18, 2024



Upcoming events

There are no events to display. [Create an event](#)

ADD AN ANNOUNCEMENT



Starting Small with Brightspace: 1+1=Success!

Announcements ▾

There are no announcements.

- Go to Announcements Tool
- New Announcement
- Reorder Announcements
- RSS
- Notifications
- Collapse this widget

Calendar ▾

Monday, August 21, 2023 ▶

Upcoming events ▾

AUG	11:59 PM
25	Assignment 1 - Due

ADD AN ANNOUNCEMENT

[Course Home](#) [Content & Activities](#) [Grades & Feedback](#) [Course Tools](#) [Course Admin](#) [Help & Resources](#)

New Announcement

General

Headline *

Welcome!

General

Headline *

Welcome {firstname} to the Course!

Content *

Paragraph **B** *I* U ~~A~~

Welcome to the course!

To get started, please go to the **Content & Activities** area and locate the syllabus at the top of the page.

Availability

[Publish](#) [Save as Draft](#) [Cancel](#)

Using Brightspace Quizzes to Get to Know Your Students

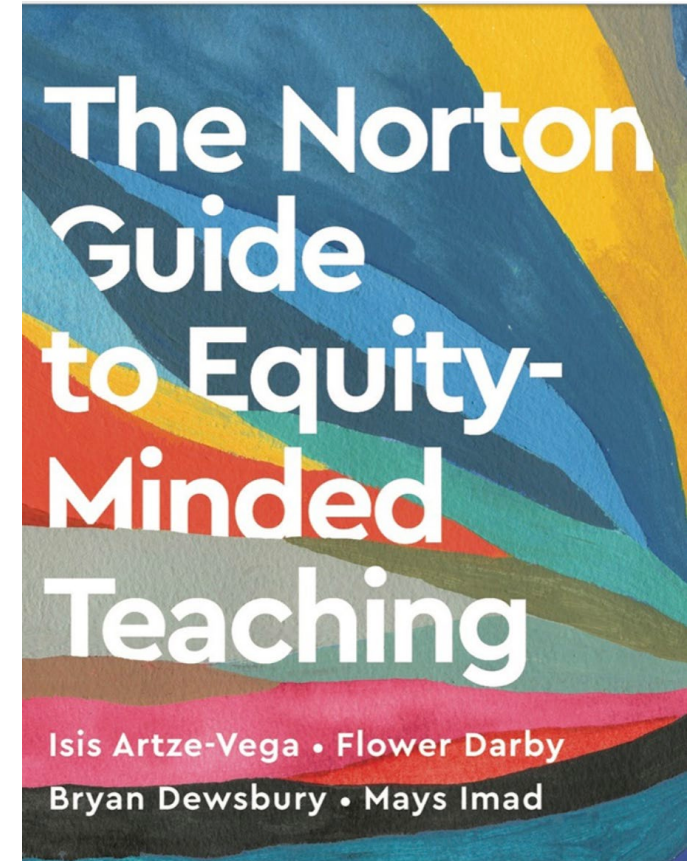
Syllabus Quiz Example Questions

1. Which two learning objectives are you most looking forward to working on in the course? Please choose why you chose those two objectives.
2. How do you get in touch with the course instructor? (provide multiple choice options)
3. Do you see any barriers to you completing any of the course assignments? If yes, please explain.
4. Do you have any questions about the course after reading the syllabus? If you do, I will be in touch with answers.
5. Is there anything you would like me to know about your learning preferences that will help me maximize your learning in this course?

EQUITY PRINCIPLE: HELP STUDENTS STAY ORGANIZED

"As students become more aware of their individual metacognitive process, they are able to more deliberately access strategies that stimulate internal question and self-monitoring, both of which are associated with intrinsic motivation and learning."

Part of metacognitive development is monitoring and planning for learning. Brightspace tools can support students in developing these skills.



Artze-Vega, I., Darby, F., Dewsbury, B., Imad, M.,
2023, The Norton Guide to Equity Minded
Teaching, p. 133.

Brightspace Features: Calendar, Due Dates, Completion Tracking

Calendar

- Highly visible (on Course Home Page)
- Consolidates due dates for your course (and their relationship to other courses' due dates)
- Tools for personal tasks

Due Dates

- Ubiquitous throughout Brightspace
- Automatically published to Calendar

Due Date

Completion Tracking

- Intent is to help students monitor their own progress
- Instructor & Student views

Student View: Completion Tracking

Search Topics 

 Syllabus

 Bookmarks


[Course Schedule](#)
2

Table of Contents 10

Course Overview 3

Before You Start 3

Module 1 4

Weekly Readings 3

Module 2

Module 1 ▾

 Print

Module 1: Introduction to Textile Arts



Expand All | Collapse All



42.86 % 3 of 7 topics complete

Module 1 Overview

 Web Page

Module 1 Readings

 Word Document

Textile Art Techniques

 Video

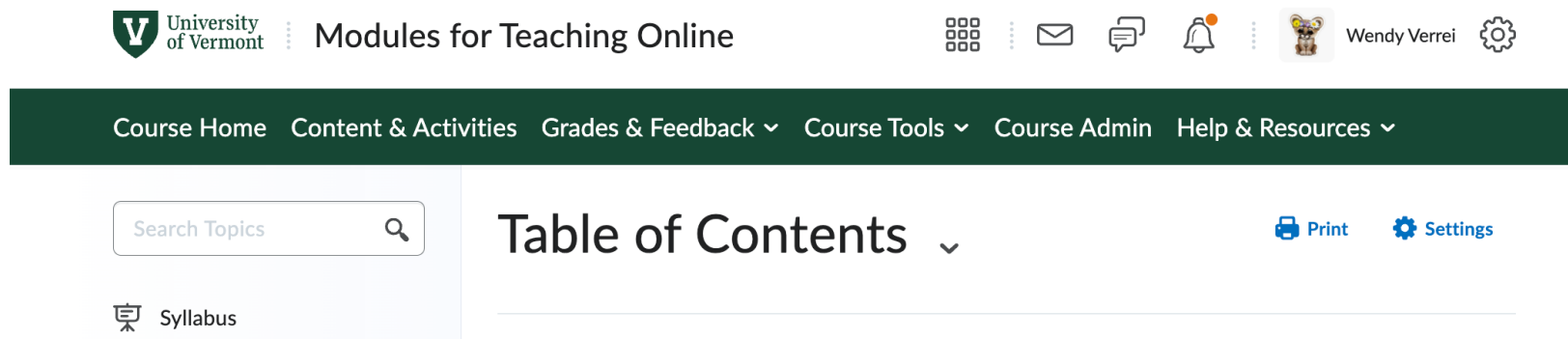
Course Survey

 Survey

●

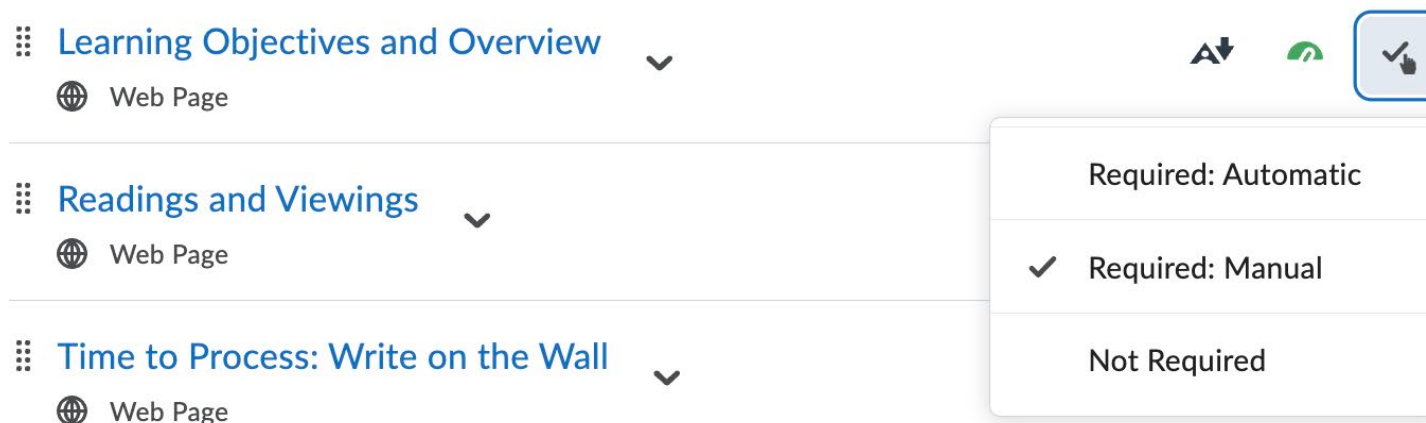
Settings for Completion Tracking

1. Course Level



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of a Canvas LMS course. The University of Vermont logo is on the left, followed by the course title "Modules for Teaching Online". On the right, there are icons for a grid, email, chat, and a notification bell, along with the user's name "Wendy Verrei" and a settings gear icon. Below the navigation bar is a dark green menu bar with links: "Course Home", "Content & Activities", "Grades & Feedback" (with a dropdown arrow), "Course Tools" (with a dropdown arrow), "Course Admin", and "Help & Resources" (with a dropdown arrow). Below this is a light blue sidebar with a "Search Topics" search bar and a "Syllabus" link with a document icon. The main content area has a "Table of Contents" heading with a dropdown arrow, and "Print" and "Settings" links with their respective icons.

2. “Item” Level



The screenshot shows the "Item" level settings page. On the left, there is a list of items: "Learning Objectives and Overview" (with a dropdown arrow), "Readings and Viewings" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Time to Process: Write on the Wall" (with a dropdown arrow). Each item has a "Web Page" icon. On the right, there is a settings menu with three options: "Required: Automatic", "Required: Manual" (which is selected with a checkmark), and "Not Required". A blue box highlights the "Required: Manual" option.

Completion Tracking

[Course Home](#) [Content & Activities](#) [Grades & Feedback](#) [Course Tools](#) [Course Admin](#) [Help & Resources](#)

Class Progress

[Settings](#) [Help](#)

Search users



Filter to: [All Users](#)

[Use agents to automate feedback](#)

Name ▲	System Access	Content Completed	Discussions	Assignment Submissions
 Berenback_sv7691, Wendy_sv7691 wverreib_sv7691	No system accesses	0 % Completed: 0 / 15	0 read 0 threads 0 replies	No scores received
 Berrizbeitia, Ines Ines.Berrizbeitia	 System Accesses: 1	 33 % Completed: 5 / 15	0 read 0 threads 0 replies	 99 %
 Berrizbeitia_sv7691, Ines_sv7691 iberrizb_sv7691	No system accesses	 6 % Completed: 1 / 16	0 read 0 threads 0 replies	 92 %
 Buckland Parker_sv7691, Holly_sv7691 hbparker_sv7691	No system accesses	 7 % Completed: 1 / 15	0 read 0 threads 0 replies	 58 %
 Harrington, Susanmarie Susanmarie.Harrington	No system accesses	0 % Completed: 0 / 15	0 read 0 threads 0 replies	No scores received
 Smolik, Michele Michele.Smolik	 System Accesses: 1	 44 % Completed: 7 / 16	0 read 0 threads 0 replies	 63 %
 Smolik_sv7691, Michele_sv7691 msmolik_sv7691	No system accesses	 20 % Completed: 3 / 15	0 read 0 threads 0 replies	 69 %
 Verrei-Berenback, Wendy Wendy.Verrei-Berenback	No system accesses	 6 % Completed: 1 / 16	0 read 0 threads 0 replies	 83 %

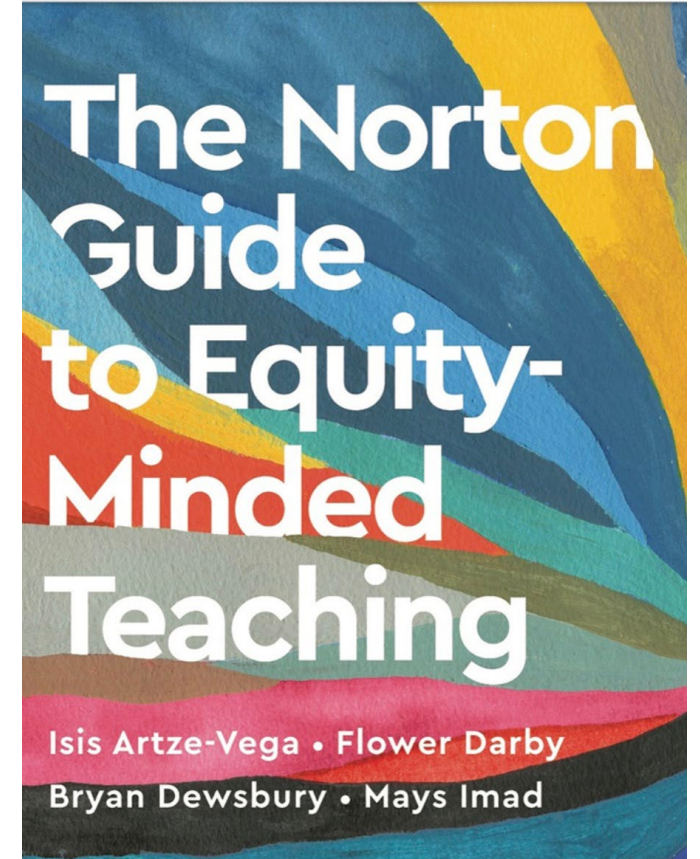
IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY OF COURSE MATERIALS

Why is accessibility important?

Recognizing accessibility as a social trend encourages educators to integrate accessibility considerations from the outset of course development, rather than retrofitting solutions for specific disabilities.

When accessibility is a core principle, it benefits not just students with disabilities, but all learners by creating more user-friendly and engaging courses.

Use Ally to improve the accessibility of your Brightspace course.



Artze-Vega, I., Darby, F., Dewsbury, B., Imad, M., 2023, The Norton Guide to Equity Minded Teaching.

What Is Ally ?

Ally is a content accessibility service that guides instructors on how to improve the accessibility of their course content. Ally also automatically checks for accessibility issues and generates alternative accessible formats for students. Additionally, instructors can use Ally to generate an accessibility report for a course.

1. Alternative Formats (**Students**)
2. Accessibility Checker (**Instructors**)
3. Ally Course Report (**Instructors**)

IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY OF COURSE MATERIALS - ALLY

Instructor Tools

Weekly Readings

Upload / Create

Existing Activities

BigBotOnCampus PDF document	Alternative formats A↓	✓
NYT Article Link		✓
Example Web page Web Page	A↓	✓

ALLY – COURSE LEVEL REPORT

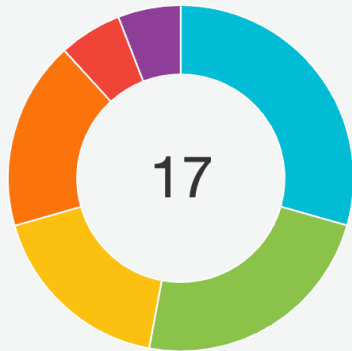
Course accessibility score



MSMOLIK0123C: Sandbox Space C

Overview

Content



All course content

HTML fragment	5
Module	4
Word document	3
Discussion topic	3
PDF document	1
External link	1

View



Fix low scoring content

1

Start



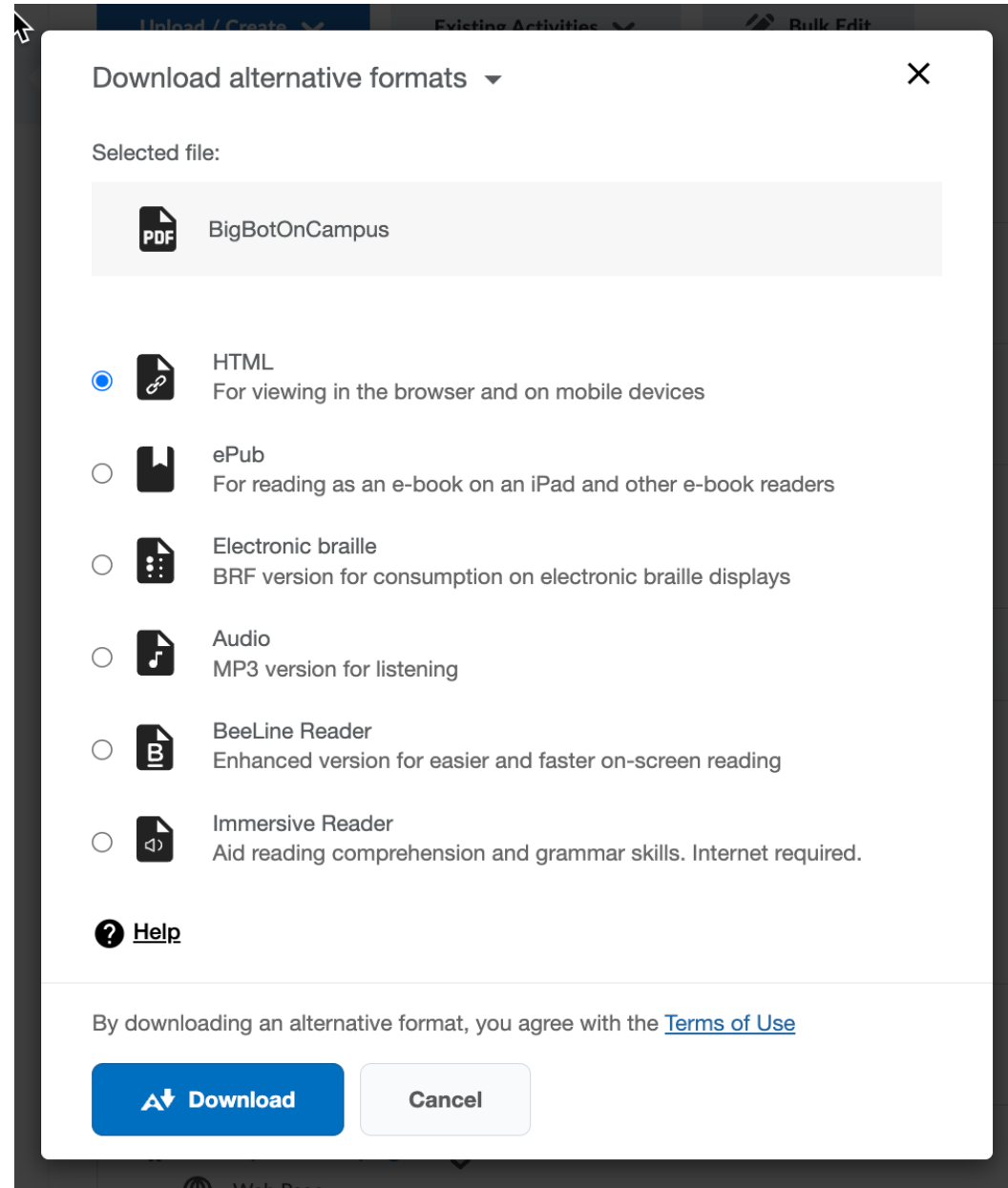
Fix major issues

6

Start

ACCESSIBLE COURSE MATERIALS - ALLY

Student File Download Options



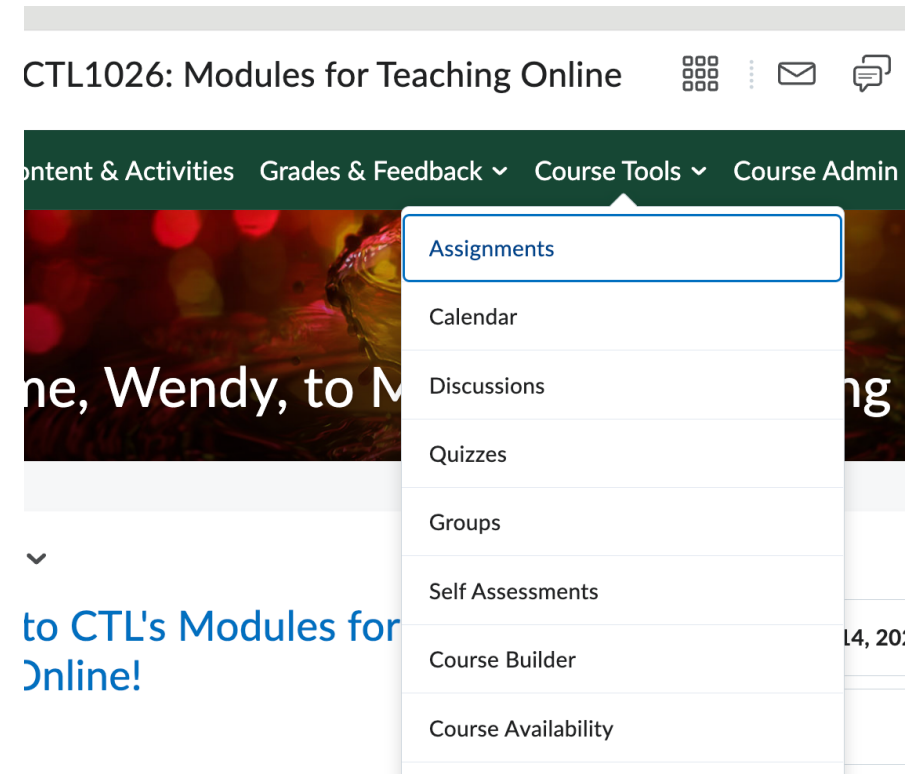
5 CONCRETE NEXT STEPS

1. Upload your syllabus
2. Set up your Gradebook before adding graded assessments
3. Hide Content While Building Your Course – Look for the eye



4. Make Your Course Available Under Course Tools
5. Contact CTL to learn more!

Attend a Brightspace workshop
Schedule a consult



MORE STEPS – ATTEND A WORKSHOP OR TWO

Aug 20 – Brightspace Setting Up the Grade Book

Aug 21– Brightspace Quick Start, Assignments

Aug 22 – Brightspace Quizzes

Aug 25 – Brightspace Quick Start, Discussions

Aug 26 – Brightspace Setting Up the Grade Book

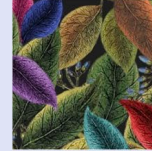
Aug 27 – Brightspace Course Design

Aug 28 – Brightspace Quizzes

Aug 29 – Brightspace Assignments



ONE MORE STEP - SCHEDULE A CONSULT



CTL Consultations

REMOTE Brightspace Consult

IN-PERSON Brightspace consult
45 minutes



REMOTE Brightspace Consult
45 minutes



Teaching and Course Design
45 minutes



REMOTE - Other Educational Technol...
45 minutes



September 02

< > August 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1:00 PM	1:45 PM	2:30 PM
				1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

QUESTIONS?



ThePhoto by PhotoAuthor is licensed under CCYYSA.