Course Readiness Checklist

Utilize this to-do list when creating and delivering your course.

We encourage you to print this off, check off items as you go, and add personally relevant items in the spaces provided.

BEFORE YOUR COURSE BEGINS			
Import content from prior semester	If you have content from a prior semester, import the content into your current course.		
Update course calendar	Set due dates for learning activities and assignments.		
Confirm Gradebook settings	Ensure the Gradebook is accurately calculating the courses final mark.		
Set expectation for response times	Clearly outline expectations for your response time to emails, discussion posts, and assignment feedback. Stick to the times you set.		
At-a-Glance Course Schedule	Detailed outline of the course, including assignment due dates that can be understood at-a-glance.		
Course syllabus	 Ensure the syllabus includes: Course description Clear timeline of activities Instructor contact information Instructor response time expectations Expectations for student participation Academic conduct Student-centred learning outcomes A list of required materials Minimal technical requirements The course grading policy Request for accommodations		

Canvas navigation	Setup the Canvas navigation (the bar on the left side with navigation links). This can be done in the course 'Settings' -> 'Navigation'. Remove any unused links, order the links to preference, and ensure that tools you want are in the navigation, such as 'Zoom'.
Welcome message	Post an introductory message, in text or video, introducing the teaching team (instructors and TAs).
Course introduction	 Getting Started section including: an explanation for how the course will work how to navigate the course how to get started.
General Q&A forum	Create a general question and answer forum place for students to ask question and communicate with one another.
Check rich media	Ensure that all text, image, video, and audio files are accessible as well as any course hyperlinks are active.
Publish course	Publish your course before the term begins.
Test course	View the course in student view to test if the course is visible to students (and purposefully hidden elements are not).

FIRST WEEK		
Introductory activity	Prepare an introductory activity to break the ice with your class. Encourage students to share their prior experience, personal interest, and learning goals.	
Build rapport	Communicate regularly through announcement, discussions, and email to build instructor rapport.	
Identify no-shows	Monitor the 'People' tab of Canvas and contact students who have not logged in during the first week.	
THROUGHOUT THE TERM		
Office hours	Invite and encourage students to use office hours and/or to make an appointment.	
Instructor presence	Communicate with students frequently to maintain instructor presence.	
Timely communication	Respond to student inquiries within 24-48 hours.	
Scaffold new technologies	Provide opportunities in a no or low stakes manner for students to use online tools before a required assignment	
Notify students if you will be absent	If you will be inaccessible during the semester, provide guidance on what to do during that time	
Deadline reminders	Post announcements to remind students of upcoming deadlines.	
Track student progress	Contact students about missed deadlines or failure to log in regularly	
Prepare assignments	Ensure that there are clear instructions that outline: The deadline The value of the assignment How to complete the assignment Supplemental materials Technical know-how Criteria of how student work will be evaluated 	
Monitor assignments	Check in on student questions and monitor assignment submissions to ensure everything goes smoothly	

Mid-course feedback	Encourage students to complete the mid-course feedback.
AFTER THE FINAL	
Closing remarks	Send an email with a closing personal message to students.
End-of-course Survey	Encourage students to complete the end-of-course survey.
Post grades	Submit final grades