

Canvas Content Delivery and Modules.

About. Canvas provides a number of options for delivering your content and assignments to students. The following is a list of approaches. In some cases, you might consider mixing approaches.

Approaches:

✓ **Assignment-Driven.** A few courses rely completely on assignments (papers, quizzes, discussions, etc.). As such, students do not receive much instruction—or instruction is embedded into assignments. In this case, everything you need is available by constructing your assignments and then directing students to the Syllabus (which can be selected as your “Home” page). By providing some content in the header (click on “Edit Syllabus Description”), you can create a one-stop page for nearly all material (you will still need to have “Grades” available, but all other Navigation items could be hidden).

One helpful supplement for this approach is the use of “Events” in the course calendar. Events show in the syllabus and can enforce non-assignment materials (such as readings or topics).

This approach is best when using Canvas as a supplement to a face-to-face course. It is not recommended for most Online courses as it generally eliminates the sense of community and risks reducing a course into a set of assignments.

📁 **Folder/File-Driven.** Some instructors grew comfortable with the way Blackboard offered a hierarchy of folders. Although Canvas is not designed for this approach, Canvas can simulate the Blackboard structure by organizing all content into folders and subfolders within the “Files” item.

“Files” is designed to be a repository for course items. In many ways, its structure is similar to a hard drive: there is a root level, which can store subfolders or files of nearly any type. The File system, however, is less robust than a hard drive (few sorting options, limited ability for organizing multiple items). It also is less customizable than the Blackboard folder system: items are generally organized alphabetically.

The Folder/File-Driven system may be a helpful transitional for instructors who grew comfortable with this format in Blackboard. It may also work well when using a Canvas class as a supplementary storage system for a face-to-face or hybrid course. Because Canvas is not designed for this approach, students and instructors may ultimately feel limited.

≡ **Module-Driven (Grouped).** Canvas is designed to present material through modules. Modules are similar to folders in that they provide an area to organize related content (Pages, assignments, files, links, etc.). Virtually everything in Canvas can be included in a module (see the “Canvas Module Items” handout for details). However, modules do not permit sub-folders or sub-modules; everything in the module is presented in the same space, though hierarchy can be suggested by the use of Text Headers and indenting.

Modules can also be set to publish (manually) or release according to specific requirements (dates, completed assignments, viewed pages, minimum scores, etc.).

Since Canvas is designed to use a module structure, most courses operate best when adopting this structure. Ideally, modules use other Canvas items (Syllabus, Discussions, etc.) to supplement or reinforce the module structure.

≡ **Module-Driven (Sequential).** The sequential method builds on the “Grouped” structure but focuses primarily on a sequence of pages and assignments (individual files would be embedded into Pages, not placed as stand-alone items). The structure of a module is designed to form a narrative.

The sequential method exploits several of Canvas’s built-in tools. In that sense, it is a natural fit. However, it generally requires a significant amount of planning and narrative structure, depending greatly on the use of Pages.

Sample Module with Grouped Approach

Students may access any item in the module.

Module 3: Elizabethan

Overview

-  Module 3 Checklist.pdf
-  Collaborations Module 3

Supplements

-  The Globe Theatre (BBC)
-  Macbeth Overview.docx
-  Orson Welles's Macbeth

Lectures

-  Elizabethan Lecture
-  Elizabethan.pptx
-  Elizabeth and Theatre.mp3
-  Elizabethan Theatre (video)
-  Sonnets.pptx
-  Macbeth and Agency

Discussions

-  Student Lounge
-  "Poesy" and Poetry Discussion
-  Macbeth and Agency

Assignments

-  Book Selection Survey
-  Poetry and Sonnet Quiz Quiz
-  Macbeth Act I and II Quiz
-  Macbeth Act III, IV, and V Quiz
-  Literary Element Paper

Text Header

File: A PDF checklist of the required readings and assignments

Page: Overview of the Collaboration assignment (+Assignment link)

Text Header

URL: YouTube link

File: A Word Doc

Page: Page containing embedded links, documents, and clips

Text Header

URL: Link to YouTube-hosted instructor lecture

File: A PowerPoint file on Elizabethan concepts

File: An mp3 audio lecture (or appropriated podcast file)

URL: Link to YouTube-hosted instructor lecture

File: A PowerPoint file on the basic parts of a sonnet

URL: Link to YouTube-hosted instructor lecture

Text Header

Ungraded Discussion

Graded Group Discussion

Graded Class Discussion

Text Header

Graded Survey

Quiz

Quiz

Quiz

Assignment

Sample Module with Sequential Approach

Students must view one page before moving to the next.

Module 3: Elizabethan

Overview

- 📄 Elizabethan
- 📄 LEP Reminder
- 📄 Collaborations Module 3
- 📄 The Age of Elizabeth

Elizabethan Poetry

- 📄 Poetry and Its Parts
- 📄 Sonnets
- 🎧 Poetry and Sonnet Quiz
- 💬 “Poesy” and Poetry Discussion

Macbeth and Theatre

- 📄 The Elizabethan Stage
- 📄 Macbeth Act I and II
- 🎧 Macbeth Act I and II Quiz
- 📄 Macbeth Act III, IV, and V
- 🎧 Macbeth Act III, IV, and V Quiz
- 💬 Macbeth and Agency

Final Stuff

- 🎧 Book Selection Survey
- 📄 Literary Element Paper
- 📄 End of Module 3

Text Header

Page: Introductory matter (+videos) on the topic and the module

Page: Information on the Literary Element Paper (+Assignment link)

Page: Overview of the Collaboration assignment (+Assignment link)

Page: Historical context (+videos, links to readings)

Text Header

Page: Overview of poetry terms (+video, +audio)

Page: Aspects of sonnets and readings (+video, +audio)

Quiz

Discussion

Text Header

Page: introduction to the Elizabethan theatre (+video)

Page: Context and suggest guidelines for approaching *Macbeth*

Quiz

Page: Context and suggest guidelines for approaching *Macbeth*

Quiz

Discussion

Text Header

Graded Survey

Assignment

Page: Listing assignment links and expectations for next module