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You've decided to create your first online course. Now what? Developing an effective plan is key to achieving quality deadlines. A well-crafted course plan ensures a clear pathway for linking content to learning outcomes, helping learners achieve their goals. A good course plan helps you avoid getting stuck on individual modules or straying from your original objectives. This saves valuable time and ensures a more efficient course creation process. To create your own online course plan in no time, follow these steps: 1. Use our course design template to get started. This template provides a sample course information section, including a course name, target audience, and learning outcomes. For example, the template has pre-filled information for a course on starting a bakery: "Start Your Own Bakery in 3 Months". By filling out this basic information, you'll be guided through mapping out your: * Learning outcomes * Module sets * Modules * Pages These elements form the core of your course content, including videos, text, audio, sharing activities, and quizzes. The learning outcomes represent the goals you want learners to achieve. 2. Link your content to your learning outcomes. We've previously discussed the importance of learning outcomes and how to write them. In a sample course, the learning outcomes for "Start Your Own Bakery in 3 Months" might include: * Analyzing market trends and consumer preferences * Calculating startup costs and creating financial projections * Outlining the process of sourcing quality ingredients The first module guides learners through achieving this learning outcome, with each page describing what learners will do. 3. Identify your module sets, modules, and pages. You can structure your course content in various ways using our course design template. You might choose to tackle multiple learning outcomes throughout each module or focus on a different outcome per page. By following these steps and utilizing the provided course design template, you'll be able to create a comprehensive plan for your online course, ensuring it supports your learning outcomes and achieves its objectives. Creating a well-structured online course requires careful planning of module sets, modules, and pages. A module set serves as an advanced feature to add an extra layer of organization, allowing multiple modules to be contained within it. Modules themselves are the main topics of the course, which can further contain several pages where content, media, and activities are added. In a 'Start Your Own Bakery in 3 Months' example, there's one module set with five modules, and the first module has five pages: - Module Set: Learning Activities - Module 1: Understanding the Bakery Industry (Pages 1-5) - Page 1: Welcome to the World of Baking - Page 2: Navigating the Bakery Industry - Page 3: Decoding Market Trends - Page 4: Analysing Consumer Preferences - Page 5: Crafting Your Unique Business Model This structure can be tailored to suit different learning styles, such as project-based or time-based learning. For instance: - **Project-Based Learning:** Module sets can contain modules for both learning and project completion. - **Time-Based Learning:** Module sets are structured by weeks or periods, with each containing pre-lesson materials, in-class work, and homework. The OpenLearning platform allows users to generate their own course structure using AI tools like the Course Builder. This feature combines user input with best practices in learning design to create an entire course structure. When arranging your course content, consider how to navigate through it for learners and be sure to include interactive elements that foster a vibrant learning community. Examples of popular arrangements used by creators in higher education, training, and corporate learning include: - **Example 1:** Project-based learning for self-paced online courses on AR/VR. - **Example 2:** Time-based learning for online courses meeting once a week. In conclusion, the key to creating an effective online course is to understand how learners engage with content and the patterns between it and the course's outcomes. By following these principles and exploring existing courses, educators can craft engaging, structured learning experiences that cater to diverse needs and preferences. Given all the moving parts in an online course, it's crucial to create a course plan to stay on track. Although you may not have all the details yet, you can use the OpenLearning AI Course Builder or the course design template to get started with your learning design process. The OpenLearning course design template helps you create an online course that achieves learners' desired outcomes. You can find more information about this tool in the OpenLearning Help Community. When designing an online course, it's essential to have a clear plan in place. This is especially true when moving from high school to college or university level, where the number of subjects and courses increases significantly. A course outline serves as a planning tool for instructors, guiding their development of the course from year one to four. A well-structured course outline sets course goals, develops student learning objectives, creates assessment plans, and establishes a schedule for the course. It also provides students with an idea of what subjects they will be taking over the next couple of years, what expectations lie ahead, and a timeline of these expectations. When designing your own syllabus, several key elements must be included to effectively communicate with students. The first section, Course Description, should provide a brief overview of the course and outline the subjects that will be covered. Some syllabuses also include additional details on specific subjects. To create an effective syllabus, it is essential to establish clear Course Goals. These goals should define the main ideas that will be covered in the course and outline the expected outcomes for students. This section helps determine what students can expect from the course and what instructors expect from them. Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes are crucial as they demonstrate what students will achieve during their time in university. These objectives typically involve verb-oriented statements that focus on student learning, such as identifying key geomorphological formations on a map or analyzing population maps. The Assessment Overview provides a grading guide and identifies the weightings for different assessment elements. It is essential to include a grading scale to help students understand their performance levels. Assessment Plans outline how instructors will gather evidence of student achievement, including various types of assessments such as online examinations, essays, and group projects. This section ensures that multiple outcomes are assessed through different methods. Finally, the Instructional Method should be clearly indicated to provide students with an understanding of the course format. Before the end of the semester, utilizing it to learn how your students perceive your teaching methods and seeing examples of speech outlines is beneficial. Required Course Materials should include detailed information on readings, such as title, author(s), edition number, and availability. It's helpful to explain how each reading connects to a specific topic in the course. The library is always a good option for accessing course materials, both print and online, through its Course Reserves system. A Schedule of Activities should be created once your plan is set. This section should facilitate learning by preparing students for assessments, such as multiple-choice exams. Various activities can help students meet their objectives, including lectures, readings, discussions, and more. It's essential to address Plagiarism Announcement to inform students about the use of plagiarism detection services like Turnitin. An alternative method should be provided if students have privacy concerns. The Reading List serves as a guide for students throughout the course, outlining textbooks and educational materials. ? September 14 - The release of The Sandman: Absolute Volume 2, marking the third week of its run. ? September 21 - The Sandman: Absolute Volume 4 Week 4 is scheduled for release on this date. ? September 28 - The Sandman: Absolute Volume 5 Week 5 is set to arrive. ? October 5 - American Gods Week 6 will be published. ? October 12 - American Gods Week 7 hits shelves. ? October 19 - The Graveyard Book Week 8 is coming. ? October 26 - The Graveyard Book Week 9 will be released. ? November 2 - A combined release of The Graveyard Book and Stardust is planned for this date. ? November 9 - Stardust Week 11 begins its run. ? November 16 - Stardust Week 12 starts its publishing journey. ? November 23 - Coraline Week 12 will be published. ? November 30 - Coraline Week 13 arrives, marking a milestone in the series. ? December 7 - The final exam review period commences. ? Essay #2 due and Final Exam scheduled for December 14.

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