

FDC Connections

A Snapshot of Faculty Learning Opportunities



“Habits reduce cognitive load and free up mental capacity, so you can allocate attention to other tasks.” --James Clear, Atomic Habits

Syllabus Templates Available!

If you are ready to build out your daily activities for your course these [general syllabus](#) and [course schedule](#) templates may be helpful. The general syllabus information is lengthy as it includes many potential possibilities! These are examples from colleagues (with permission) for your adaptation – please customize to fit your needs.

Syllabus Construction Resources

You could say that the course **syllabus** is the course **system**. Setting up your course so that it includes regular “habits”-- due dates, class formats, etc. -- can help your students perform better. When they know what to expect in terms of daily format and interaction they can free up their attentional resources for the first order of business: learning!

We have assembled a number of tools and relevant information in the [Faculty Resources](#) section of our website. We also have a few archived Learning By Design (LBD) studios that include some evidence-based practice for building a course system that promotes learning:

[Inclusive Syllabus Tune Up](#)

In the “Inclusive Syllabus Tune Up” Learning By Design Studio colleagues will evaluate three inclusive syllabus tools for utility in your own teaching and apply one to an existing syllabus to amplify equity

and inclusion in the course. Please have a current syllabus on hand, as well as the [LBD worksheet](#) which includes links to all three inclusive syllabus and design tools.

[Graphic Syllabus](#)

Recent learning science suggests that not only is the idea of a set learning “style” a myth, but that all learners retain and utilize information more effectively when exposed to diverse and interconnected modes and methods of learning. Integrating visual, logical, verbal, and aural content throughout your course can help ensure that learning “sticks”. Because the syllabus is often the first form of interaction students have with our courses, adapting these documents to include more diverse and multi-modal content can humanize the course and increase engagement among your students. This brief Learning by Design (LBD) Studio introduces the liquid and graphic syllabus and discusses simple steps you might take to adapt your existing syllabi with these elements.

All LBD Studios are available on-demand on the [FDC website](#) or through the [FDC Commons Moodle site](#). Please email us (fdc@furman.edu) if you do not have Moodle access.

Join Us: DEI Syllabus Tune-Up

If you would appreciate some colleague feedback on your syllabus, please join us at part of the faculty retreat/opening of the university activities from 9:30-11:00 AM for a “Working Breakfast: DEI Syllabus Tune-Up” in the Younts Conference Center.

Meet in community to enjoy a meal and expand your DEI pedagogical knowledge. Colleagues will share one way they have changed their syllabus for inclusion and the results of that change. Participants will have time for group discussion, to work on their syllabus individually, and then regroup for a round of peer feedback.

This event is part of the larger set of opening of the faculty retreat/opening of the university activities coordinated by Academic Affairs. If you haven’t already done so, please **RSVP by Friday, July 29th** for the breakfast (and all other events) via [this Qualtrics survey](#).

“If we want to help students maintain their attention throughout the class period, we have to begin by thinking like playwrights and composers, recognizing that students need changes of scene, shifts in format, and opportunities to pause and catch their cognitive breath.”

--James Lang, *Distracted*

Integrated Professional Development Calendar

The FDC is thrilled to partner with several departments at Furman to launch a new [Integrated Professional Development](#) (IPD) calendar! The IPD calendar has been created with the **purpose of featuring faculty and staff professional development events from departments/units throughout our campus in *one place***. The calendar is intended to feature continuing education, learning, and personal development and growth opportunities for all faculty and staff. We invite all campus partners that

sponsor professional development to contribute to and consult the calendar. If you would like more information about how to post on this new collaborative resource, please email fdc@furman.edu.

Coming Soon: Fall/Spring Faculty and Staff Reading Circles

Stay tuned for our first newsletter of the semester in which we'll share details about upcoming programming and our Fall/Spring Reading Circles program. Both of the quotations above come from books we're ready to delve into with you: *Atomic Habits* and *Distracted*.

Stay up-to-date with FDC programs, resources, and support services by visiting our [website](#). Use the QR code below for quick mobile access!



Connect with us on [Instagram](#)



To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility for any of our events, please contact Linette Reyes (linette.reyes-berberena@furman.edu).

Contact Us: fdc@furman.edu or [Request a Consultation](#)