



Building a Pathway to Student Learning: A How-To Guide to Course Design

Steven K. Jones, Robert K. Noyd, Kenneth S. Sagendorf

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"Roll up your sleeves and get ready to learn practical guidelines for designing a learning-centered course. This book puts aside theory and argument for the transformational work of re-tooling courses with an emphasis on deep, lasting learning. Various strategies maximize the hands-on, retreat-like approach to achieving what the authors call transparency, alignment, and integration in course design. The book is more than a good read: it is a genuine workout for teachers committed to improving student learning."

- John Zubizarreta, Ph.D., Professor of English, Director of Honors & Faculty Development, Carnegie Foundation/CASE U.S. Professor of the Year, Columbia College

This book is written as a "how-to" handbook, providing step-by-step guidance on creating a pathway to student learning, including 26 workboxes (also available free online) that lead you through each element of the course design process and promote a rich reflection process akin to being in a workshop setting.

The authors prompt you to (1) consider the distinctive characteristics of your students; (2) clearly articulate your course learning goals; (3) create aligned summative assessments; (4) identify the specific knowledge, skills, and attitudes students will need in order to be successful; (5) craft effective learning experiences, informed by the well-documented research on how people learn; and (6) incorporate formative assessment to ensure you and your students are staying on track.

Completion of the sequence of worksheets leads to a poster as a visual display of your course design. This graphic depiction of your course ties the components together, provides a clear map of action for teaching your course, for modifying as you evaluate the success of particular strategies or want to introduce new concepts, and for developing your syllabus. A rubric for evaluating course posters is included.

For faculty developers, this book provides a proven and ready-made resource and text around which to design or redesign learner-centered course design workshops or multi-day course design retreats, replicating or modifying the renowned workshop that the authors have developed at the Air Force Academy for both faculty new to teaching and those with many years of teaching experience under their belt.

The free, interactive website allows users to save course designs and syllabi, and is ideal for use in workshops or by learning communities.



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