

Developing the Course Blueprint or Outline

A blueprint takes your creative concept map, and organizes it into a more formal outline. Here are three things to keep in mind when developing your course blueprint:

Consideration 1

Course blueprint: writing course goals, outlining assessments and deciding on readings.

1. Provide a course description.
2. Outline the overall course goals or learning objectives.
3. Outline your plan for assessing student learning which includes descriptions of assignments. This plan should include:
 - information about what each assignment is worth
 - a description of each assignment in detail, along with a note about how each relates to the overall course goals
 - instructions on how to submit assignments, participate in discussion boards and work in groups
 - information about any examinations your course might have
 - how participation will be graded
 - assessment rubrics
4. List the required and optional resources for the course, including:
 - required course texts and readings, as well as a list of recommended readings. Readings should be listed by Unit that they relate to.
 - relevant library materials and information on how to access them.
 - any other instructional resources (e.g. web sites; video or audio materials) that would be appropriate to include, including information about how students can access them (e.g., including links to them, mentioning their inclusion in course packs, etc.).

Consideration 2

Unit blueprints: dividing the course into sections and writing unit learning objectives.

Create outlines of the individual course units with the following details for each unit:

- title of the Unit
- 4-5 learning objective statements for the Unit
- unit readings
- summary (in point form) of teaching points or commentary. You will later expand these points as full text, PowerPoint with voiceover or other media format.
- proposed learning activities and strategies for interaction. Activities should reinforce the learning objectives for the Unit.
- unit assignment(s). Unit assignments should clearly address one or more of the course goals or Unit learning objectives.
- instructor responsibilities. This section lets your students know what to expect from you during the run of the Unit.

Consideration 3

Revising

Once you have created your unit blueprints, you may find that your course blueprint needs to be revised to make sure it covers the important concepts in your unit blueprints. For example, if you decide that one of your unit assignments is especially important for the course although it doesn't clearly address a course goal, you may want to add an appropriate course goal to address what that assignment is accomplishing. Keeping all your assignments and interactions closely tied to course goals and unit learning objectives will help your students understand the purpose behind their course activities.