**Syllabus Requirements and Recommended Template**

*Academic Planning and Assessment, Updated August 13, 2025*

# Syllabus Requirements

In accordance with the regulations laid out in the [GW Faculty Handbook,](https://provost.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs626/f/downloads/Resources/GW_Faculty_Handbook-Final-Approved20150410.pdf) updated April 2015, Section 2.7.3.4\*, the syllabus for all proposed courses should include the following:

1. Course prerequisites, if any.
2. Learning outcomes that state descriptions of behaviors or skills that students will be able to demonstrate at the end of the course or unit. See [assessment.gwu.edu/course-assessment](https://assessment.gwu.edu/course-assessment).
3. Average amount of direct instruction or guided interaction with the instructor and average minimum amount of independent (out-of-class) learning expected per week.
4. Required textbooks and/or other materials and recommended readings.
5. Week-by-week schedule of topics to be presented.
6. Description of assignments and other course assessments that delineate how student performance will be evaluated.
7. Statement regarding the GW Academic Integrity Code.
8. Statement regarding the University policy on observance of religious holidays.
9. Statement regarding the use of electronic course materials and class recordings.
10. Information regarding Academic Commons and the GW Writing Center.
11. Information regarding Disability Support Services.
12. Information regarding the Student Health Center (medical, counseling**/**psychological, and psychiatric services)
13. GW campus emergency information.

\*See text below.

**Remote, online, and hybrid course syllabi should include the following additional information:**

1. Instructions for getting started and where to find various course components.
2. Minimum technology requirements for participation in the course.
3. Provide link to student support (e.g., technical requirements and support, student services, obtaining a GWorld card, and state contact information) at [online.gwu.edu/student-support](https://online.gwu.edu/student-support)
4. Information regarding the accessibility of all technologies required in the course.
5. Requirements for accessing and participating in the course (e.g., requisite skills for using technology tools and software applications, and computer equipment requirements such as webcam, microphone, and software).

\*The Faculty Handbook is available from the Office of the Provost at [provost.gwu.edu/policies-procedures-and-guidelines](http://provost.gwu.edu/policies-procedures-and-guidelines).

# Recommended Syllabus Template

## Course and contact information:

Course: [department, course number, and title]  
Semester: [semester, year]  
Meeting time: [day(s) of the week and class start and finish times]

Location: [building, room (if relevant)

## Instructor:

Name:  
Campus address:  
Phone:

GW E-mail:

Remote office hours:

**Course prerequisites, if any:**

[List all prerequisite courses using departmental code and course number. In addition, list specific skills, knowledge, credits completed, and the like, if applicable.]

## Learning outcomes that state descriptions of behaviors or skills that students will be able to demonstrate at the end of the course or unit:

## [Ensure that the learning outcomes are appropriate to the level for which the course is designed. Avoid verbs like “understand” or “know;” instead, use verbs such as analyze, synthesize, apply, and evaluate. See [assessment.gwu.edu/course-assessment](https://assessment.gwu.edu/course-assessment)]

“As a result of completing this course, students will be able to:

1.

2.

3. [etc.]”

**Average amount of direct instruction or guided interaction with the instructor and average minimum amount of independent (out-of-class) learning expected per week:**

[The following guidance pertains to courses taught in a traditional 15-week semester, regardless of modality. For all course delivery types (on-campus, remote, online, and hybrid) taught on different schedules, the number of minutes per week of direct instruction and independent learning should be adjusted to ensure that the total combined effort fulfills the same minimum total requirements for direct instruction and estimated independent (out-of-class) learning.

Note that the amount of both direct instruction and independent learning should be included in this statement.

## *On-campus courses*—Use the following formula to calculate the average minimum amount of independent learning expected per week for inclusion on the syllabus: for each credit, students are expected to spend a minimum of 100 minutes in independent learning for every 50 minutes of direct instruction for a minimum total of 2.5 hours per week or 37.5 hours for the semester. A 3-credit course, for example, would include 2.5 hours of direct instruction and a minimum of 5 hours of independent learning per week for a combined minimum total of 7.5 hours per week or 112.5 hours per semester. See [Assignment of Credit Hour Policy](http://provost.gwu.edu/policies-procedures-and-guidelines) for more information.

## *Remote and hybrid courses*—For remote, online, and hybrid courses, the distribution of direct and independent learning minutes may vary; however, it is expected that courses will include significant synchronous elements, whereby students are engaging with the faculty member either through course discussions or lectures. For each course credit, students are expected to spend a minimum total of 2.5 hours per week of combined direct instruction and independent learning for a total of 37.5 hours in a 15-week semester.

*Courses with irregular class meetings*—For courses that might not meet on a weekly basis, such as research and independent study courses and internships, the distribution of direct and independent learning minutes may vary. For each credit, students are expected to spend an average total of 2.5 hours per week of combined direct and independent learning for a total of 37.5 hours in a 15-week semester.]

## [Course workload estimator](https://cat.wfu.edu/resources/tools/estimator2/): Faculty may wish to use the “course workload estimator” developed by Rice University. This tool allows the user to estimate how much time to allot for different types of reading assignments.

## Required textbooks and/or other materials and recommended readings:

## [List all required textbooks, workbooks, websites, etc.

List all recommended or supplemental course learning materials

Clearly identify which materials are required, recommended, or supplemental]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Author | Title | Edition |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Week-by-week schedule of topics to be presented and scheduling of final examinations:**

[The class schedule should be a detailed breakdown of topics to be covered, course assignments and due dates, and required and recommended reading by class session or module.

GW’s regular fall and spring semesters are 15 weeks in length. All 15 weeks must be accounted for on the class schedule. The class schedule should include 14 weeks of instruction with the 15th week dedicated to the final. No student break day or period that appears on the academic calendar may be used or counted as a class session. See [bulletin.gwu.edu/academic-calendar/](http://bulletin.gwu.edu/academic-calendar/)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Topic(s) and readings | Assignment(s) due |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Scheduling of final examinations:**

Final examinations, which include any type of end-of-semester examination, are to be administered as week 15 of a 15-week semester and only during the regularly scheduled examination period. To provide students maximum opportunity to study and review material covered during the semester, and to ensure 15 weeks of instruction, final examinations may not be administered during regularly scheduled class sessions, on class make-up days, or during the reading period.

Any type of end-of-semester paper, report, or take-home examination submitted in lieu of a final examination is acceptable and should be due during the examination period.

If no final examination is scheduled, faculty should make a reasonable determination of whether their course conforms to GW’s assignment of credit hour policy, which assumes that students spend, over the course of 15 weeks, a minimum of 37.5 hours of direct learning and out-of-class work for each credit.

# For more information see [Administration of Final Examinations During the Examination Period](http://provost.gwu.edu/administration-final-examinations-during-examination-period).

**Assignments**

[A detailed breakdown of course assignments and due dates by lesson module. Include assignment descriptions, method of assessment/evaluation, and point value.]

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | Description | Total Points |
|  |  |  |
|  | Total Possible Points |  |

**Grading**

List what will be counted and percentages. [For example:

* midterm exam (\_\_%)
* paper (\_\_%)
* final exam (\_\_%)
* class participation/attendance (\_\_%)]

**University policies, academic support, student support, and campus emergency information**

Information on University policies, academic support, support for students in and outside of the classroom, and GW campus emergency information can be found at the following link: bulletin.gwu.edu/university-syllabus-policies/.