

## Function of the Syllabus

### For the Instructor:

- Helps you plan and organize a course
- Articulates your own scholarly orientation to the big concepts in your discipline
- Articulates your beliefs and values about learning and teaching
- Stimulates your scholarly research and writing
- Communicates the nature of the content of your course to other faculty and administrations
- Communicates your teaching styles and pedagogical methods to other faculty and administrators
- Provides an important document in your teaching career
- Guides your lesson planning
- Focuses your day-to-day teaching on the key goals and objectives
- Creates a learning contract with your students
- Helps reduce student anxiety about the course- contributing to a classroom atmosphere conducive to participation
- Establishes your credibility with students as an organized, responsible, and considerate instructor
- Allows you to set policies which enable you to work comfortably
- Models good writing and organizational skills for students

### For Students:

- Establishes initial point of contact between student and instructor
- Explains what students should learn by the end of the course
- Clarifies specific course objectives, expectations and, rubrics
- Explains how the student will change as a result of the successful completion of the course
- Helps to set the tone for the semester
- Acquaints the students with the logistics of the course
- Defines student responsibilities for successful work
- Describes active learning
- Provides a conceptual framework
- Helps the student assess her or his readiness for your course
- Sets the course in a broader context for learning
- Provides an opportunity to list academic support resources on campus