Universal Design for Learning

Teaching & Learning Mini-Virtual Conference
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Outcomes for Today

- Explain what Universal Design for Learning means
- Identify why it is important
- Summarize how Bb Ally helps you with UDL and accessibility guidelines
Universal Design is … 

the design and composition of an environment so that it can be 

• **accessed,**  
• **understood,** and  
• **used** to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability.

Institute for Human Centered Design
Universal Design Example

Source: Why we need Universal Design
TEDx Talk talking about Universal Design and why it is important
Universal Design for Learning is

• provides all students with an equal opportunity to learn,
• designed in flexible ways to meet the needs of individual learners, and
• prepared with flexible means, methods, and materials to better meet the needs of every student.
What is UDL?
How Humans Learn
UDL Guidelines
Recognition networks (the what)
Affective networks (the why)
Strategic networks (the how)
The Why: Engagement

• Choice & autonomy (but not too much)
• Provide students with options on how to engage in course activities
• Align goals & objectives for relevance & value
The What: Representation

- Variety of ways to display and provide information
- Connect to previous knowledge for improved understanding
- Illustrate through multiple means
The How: Action & Expression

• Students choose from among ways to demonstrate what they have learned
• Flexibility in some deadlines
• Provide multiple opportunities for strategy development and feedback
Example: UDL Assignment

- Describe various types of learning
- Options
  - Poster
  - Research Report
  - Presentation
  - Video/computer simulation
- Due date fixed, drafts flexible
Example: UDL Content

• Provide multiple formats of information
• Captions on videos
• Provide audio only options without visual distractions
A Quick Review…

Provide:
1) Multiple means of engagement
2) Multiple means of representation
3) Multiple means of expression
Making Simple Changes

- Blackboard Ally
  - Alternative Formats for students
  - Guidance for Instructors to improve accessibility
- Where to start
  - Syllabus
  - Textbook, required readings
  - Videos captioned
- Video Captioning
Instructor View

Universal Design for Learning & Accessibility

Attached Files: Universal Design Powerpoint 2020.pptx (6.757 MB)

- 🌡️ Low (0-33%): Needs help! There are severe accessibility issues.
- 🌡️ Medium (34-66%): A little better. The file is somewhat accessible and needs improvement.
- 🌡️ High (67-99%): Almost there. The file is accessible but more improvements are possible.
- 🌡️ Perfect (100%): Perfect! Ally didn't identify any accessibility issues but further improvements may still be possible.
Instructor View with Guidance

Accessibility score for: Philosopher_Statues.jpg

25%

This image is missing an alternative description

What this means

How to write a good description

Add alternative description

Enter a description for this image

Add

100%

Perfect!

This image has a perfect accessibility score. Keep up the great work!

Click the Indicator ➔ Read the Feedback ➔ Improve your file ➔ Increase your score
Student View

Download alternative formats

Selected file:

- **Syllabus Outline.docx**

- Tagged PDF
  Structured PDF for improved use with assistive technology

- HTML
  For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices

- ePub
  For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers

- Electronic braille
  BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays

- Audio
  MP3 version for listening

- BeeLine Reader
  Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading

- Help
Resources

• Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST)
  Universal Design for Learning Guidelines
• Universally Designed Assignments
• UDL and Accessibility @NDSU
• OTL Universal Design
• Blackboard Help Ally for Blackboard