**Course Design**

Courses will vary in design depending on the nature of the subject you are teaching, your personal preferences and the way in which you intend students to use your course.

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**Course Design Video**

Direct URL: [https://youtu.be/RtCKI27Uao4?list=PLontYaReEU1tzU1T5gfiXJQA5nBc3isN](https://youtu.be/RtCKI27Uao4?list=PLontYaReEU1tzU1T5gfiXJQA5nBc3isN)

**Video Description:** The first page students see when they enter your course leaves a lasting impression. Use this first look to orient students and convey important information. This tutorial will show you how to set your course entry point page and add a banner image to it.

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**Course Design Instructions**

**Designing Your Course**

Courses will vary in design depending on the nature of the subject you are teaching, your personal preferences and the way in which you intend students to use your course. It is very important to think about why you are using an online environment and what you hope to achieve for both yourself and your students. Your answers to such questions will shape the way in which you will use Blackboard and how you design and build your course.

**Types of Layout**

Three common ways of laying out the content and activities in your course are:

- **Chronological:** Primary focus is on the order and timing of the course so you might arrange material by week.
- **By Subject Area:** Primary focus on subject matter such as topics or issues (which may be studied over a varied number of weeks).
- **By Type of Content:** Primary focus on the type of resources being provided to students.

**Changing Style Settings**

The *Course Entry Point* for each course is by default the Home Page. This can be customized in various ways such as changing its name, adding a banner, modules or graphics. It is also possible to change your Course Entry Point to be a different page entirely.

Whatever you decide to do for the Home Page or Entry Point for your course, you should make sure that it is not confusing and that you give a welcome message. Students need to know how they should get started in the course and how they are intended to use the online environment in their studies.
1. Select Course Structure

Course structures are predefined course materials, such as notes, links, instructions, and control examples that can jump-start your course organization. The selected course structure's content is added to your course and does not replace existing menu items and content. You can delete unnecessary items.

2. Select Course Entry Point

Select the first area users see when starting the course from the drop-down list below.

3. Select Course Theme

Select a visual theme that will be applied to your course.

Personalise Your Course

- In the Control Panel select Customisation followed by Teaching Style.
- Select a Course Structure: You may find it interesting to look through the available range of options – choose which is most compatible with your teaching style and subject.
- Select Course Entry Point: Choose the entry point for your students – select the most relevant page.
- Select a Course Theme: Select a visual theme that will be applied to your course.
- Select Menu Style: View the different looks and colour schemes.

Note: Note the other options available, including Default Content View and Course Banners.