Course Visual Design

Design Guidelines

Create courses that have a clear, consistent design, and that are logically organized so it is easy to find and understand the course information and structure.

- Build all your resources into your course.
- Use the topic or weekly schedule format. Don't put everything in the first topic!
- Keep topic descriptions short and concise.
- Use the Add a resource> labels function to create "headers" such as Resources, Readings, Activities, Deliverables or Assignments to organize materials within a topic.
- Repeat these labels in each topic, in the same order. Use the new duplicate function (next to edit icon) to speed up this process.

- Each topic should fit within a browser window, without the need to scroll.
- Create separate web pages to contain long blocks of text.
- Keep graphics small or put them on a separate webpage if they are content related and carry information.

Examples of Good Course Design

In *eLearning and Moodle Essentials*, see the Read me file, course introduction, introductory forum, use of a glossary, Course Navigation tips and overall use of a variety of activities within a clean design.
http://coolcourses.moodle.org/course/view.php?id=20

In *Higher Education Film Studies Module*, see the "PLEASE START HERE, Welcome to the course" document and the Administrative Area. Notice the effective use of Labels to organize content. http://coolcourses.moodle.org/course/view.php?id=3 ,

In *Climate Change Course*, note the various types of multimedia, links http://coolcourses.moodle.org/course/view.php?id=7

Course Design: Resources and Tutorials

To find videos, images and multimedia use Creative Commons search. It allows search of different websites, Google Images, Wikimedia commons, etc. http://search.creativecommons.org

How to add image icons to your topic block: http://bit.ly/Ibe7rQ

How to create a linked menu at the top of your course: http://bit.ly/InsYCZ%20

Images

WorldImages a collection by the CSU Image project with over 80,000 images, in all areas of visual imagery. Includes Quicksearch, advanced search by art form, nationality, historical era and many other categories.

Free stock image sites:

- 4FreePhotos
- Caricature King
- Dreamstime
- Every Stock Photo
- Flickr Commons
- Free Digital Photos
- Free Historical Stock Photos

- Free Photos Bank
- Free Vector
- FreeFoto
- FreeRange
- Image Base
- Imageafter
- Kavewall.com
- Nations Illustrated
- Openphoto
- Photogen
- Picapp
- Pixel Perfect Digital
- Pixmac
- Public Domain Pictures.net
- Public-Domain Photos.com
- stock.xchng
- Stockvault
- Toasto
- Turbo Photo
- Unprofound
- Vector Art
- Wikimedia Commons