

The First-Year Seminar Course and Backwards Design Model

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Defining our Direction

- **First-Year Seminar Course**
 - All of us have experienced this type of course in our educational journey
 - Each of us offered unique backgrounds & insights
 - Develop an online version
- **Collaboration**
 - Wiki
 - Wimba Classroom

Why Backwards Design?

- University Success courses have established benchmarks they want students to reach
- What should students understand, know, and be able to do?
 - Students to have a successful transition from high school to college
 - Students to remain in school

Stage One: Identify Desired Results

Students will understand:	Essential Questions
There is a lot to learn in order to make a successful transition to college life	Why take this course?
Mastering the technology and skills in this course will have benefits in many other college courses	Why is the course offered online?
What Blackboard is and how to locate it on the university website	How does one successfully navigate the Blackboard site?
Many of the online tools used in this course will be utilized in other university courses across all majors	Which aspects of an online environment will enhance the students' academic success?
Students will know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • factual information about the university campus • vocabulary terms related to Blackboard and the Wimba classroom • key facets of the Blackboard learning environment 	Students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access Blackboard and Wimba from their own PC • successfully navigate Blackboard in order to use the digital drop box, online discussion, and Wimba

Stage Two: Evidence & Assessment

- **Performance tasks**
 - Posts a personal profile in Blackboard and also is able to leave a message for the instructor in the drop box
- **Other Evidence**
 - Capable of navigating the Blackboard environment
- **Formative Assessment**
 - The instructor will need to gauge the pace of the instruction on how well students are keeping up with the technology
- **Summative Assessment**
 - Because this is a lesson plan for the first day of a semester-long class it is too early to propose a summative assessment

Stage Three: Learning Plan & Instruction

- **Learning Activities**

- Introductory PowerPoint presentation
- Opportunity to logon to Blackboard in the computer lab
- Introduce students to each other in a face-to-face setting
- Orient students to the Blackboard menu and the features of the Wimba Classroom

Benefits

- **University**

- Introduces students to the technologies they will be using during their time at the university

- **Student**

- Builds confidence among students in using the tools
- Caters to:
 - Traditional
 - Non-Traditional
 - International



Questions?