

# For Seminars and Discussion-Based Courses

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For anyone trying to move course content online, it can be challenging to translate what they already do well in a face-to-face classroom into an online classroom environment. The most important thing to consider is how to clearly communicate with students about expectations and course requirements.

## For Seminars and Discussion-Based Courses → Which use Readings, Journals, and Live Discussion On Campus.

In a small seminar, students will probably read one or more resources before class, think through how the materials relate to themselves, to the major themes of the course, and to other course materials. Then, students come to class prepared to make sense of what they have read with the group. There may be a bit of lecture from the professor and a lot of discussion among the seminar participants.

How would this class format work online? Consider this possible model as a place to start: **Read. Journal. Live Discussion Online.**

1. **Create several modules** in the content area of your Moodle course to contain all the materials and activities for your class meetings. Make sure to name the modules in a way that its contents are easily recognizable to students. Add a description to the module selecting the "Turn editing on" button. Then select the pencil next to the Module name to rename it. To add the description to the module, select the gear icon below the module name and then add the description to the summary text box. Once the module is renamed and the description has been added, outline clearly for students the specific steps they will need to complete the activities in the class meeting by adding activities and resources to the module. What will the need to watch? Read? Complete? Submit? Discuss? etc.
2. **Add any required readings** or other materials to your course. You can upload a document or other file by selecting the "Turn editing on" button. At the bottom of each module in Moodle, you will select the "add an activity or resource" link. From this menu, you can link to library resources or online materials like websites. You can also create a quick webcam video recording using BigBlueButton and giving students some of the supplemental information that would normally come out in class.
3. **Create space for thinking and reflection** with a private discussion group for each student or create an assignment where students can submit their answers to prompts about the reading and video before they come to the live class for the discussion. These private submissions can be submitted for a grade in the grade book, or the instructor can just scan them before class to make sure students are all on the right track.
4. **Finally, schedule with Microsoft Teams or BigBlueButton a virtual classroom meeting** for the day and time your class normally meets. This will provide your students with a link to enter the virtual classroom space for your class time. We strongly recommend printing off a handy quick start guide on hosting a virtual classroom meeting and keeping it next to you as you host the meeting in case any questions come up. Instructions and guides are found in the student and faculty knowledgebases on the Moodle taskbar (Faculty Help > Get Help; and also Student Help > Get Help).

In the end, your Moodle course module might look something like this:

# Class Meeting Monday 03/16/20

 Print  Settings



Add dates and restrictions...



The activities required for this class meeting are:






- 1) Read the article (linked to Vanderbilt library resource below)
- 2) Watch the lecture video in which I define some of the key terms and themes we will be discussing in class.
- 3) No later than midnight on Sunday night, post your reflections and responses to the prompts in the Discussion called "Student Journals" also linked below.
- 4) Finally, on Monday at our regular classtime\*, log on to the Virtual Classroom link below for our live class discussion which should last approximately 30 minutes from 10:10-10:40.

\*If you cannot log on during classtime, we will miss you, but the video of our discussion will be available for 14 days after class. As soon as you are able, watch the video of our class discussion and post specific questions, answers, and ideas in the follow-up Discussion entitled "Week 8 Class Discussion".

Upload / Create

Existing Activities

 Bulk Edit

	Library reading- Selfies : searching for the image of God in a digital age / Craig Detweiler.		
	Link		
	Video Lecture Week 8		
	Web Page		
	Individual Journal Areas		
	Discussion Topic		
	Live Class Meeting 0316/20		
	External Learning Tool		