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BerkeleyHaas

TEACHING TIP OF THE WEEK

Online Teaching Strategies

This Week's Tip: How to make your bCourse site more accessible with *DesignPLUS* tools.

DesignPLUS is the leading course design toolset within bCourses. Leverage the tools to save time, drive student engagement, and create a more effective course page. Haas Digital can help you take your Canvas course to the next level.

Moving from in-person to remote instruction may feel difficult and time-consuming, but with [Cidilabs DesignPLUS](#) you can easily create engaging and stimulating content in a flash. Created to significantly cut the time it takes to develop a course in bCourses (Canvas), DesignPLUS enables you to rapidly build course sites and painlessly develop stylish and high-quality content. DesignPLUS allows you to [do more in less time](#), so you can provide your students with a better online experience.

With DesignPLUS you can better organize your online content in bCourses, create more visually engaging modules, and best of all, DesignPLUS is mobile and accessibility compliant so any content you create with the tool will be consistent across all devices and will meet UC Berkeley accessibility standards.

The screenshot shows a bCourses interface for the course EW MBA 200 - 01A. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with icons for Home, Account, Admin, Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, Inbox, History, Commons, Academic Policies, and Help. The main content area has a dark blue header with the course ID 'EW MBA 200 - 01A'. Below the header is a grid of week links: Week 0, Week 1, Week 2, Week 3, Week 4, Week 5, Week 6, and Week 7. Underneath the week links is a section titled 'EW MBA 200 with Professor Fernando Corral'. This section includes a yellow Cal bear logo and a paragraph of text: 'This course is designed for individuals interested in learning more about the art and science of influence in organizations. Many people are ambivalent, if not disdainful, of those who seek to wield power and influence at work. But organizations are fundamentally political entities, and power and influence are key mechanisms by which things get done. For aspiring leaders, it is important to be able to diagnose organizational politics in order to form and implement new strategies. In addition, leaders are usually on the receiving end of these processes. An astute leader knows how to anticipate moves that others will make, how to block or avoid them when they have undesirable consequences, and how to help these moves succeed when their consequences are beneficial.'

DesignPLUS is already available in bCourses, and you can access it with the click of a few buttons. [Haas Digital](#) can help set up your bCourse site with a pre-built DesignPLUS template that is ready for you to add your content.

Using templates for your courses has several advantages beyond reducing the time you need to create an online course and streamlining the process of working with an Instructional Designer:

- Having a consistent structure among many courses at Haas makes it easier for students to navigate Bcourses and find relevant information.
- Being able to [modify all due dates in one page](#) makes adapting your course to unforeseen circumstances much easier.
- Using templates that you know have been [designed for accessibility](#) and that meet accessibility standards means that you can focus on providing great content for your students.

[Contact Haas Digital today to schedule a consultation or training to get started designing high-quality bCourse sites with DesignPLUS today.](#)

TELL US WHAT TEACHING TIP TOPICS YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT: Follow this [link](#) to let us know what topics you would like us to cover.

The Online Teaching Tip of the Week is a series produced for Haas Faculty by the Associate Dean for Learning Strategies' Online Teaching Tips Team.