Optimizing Accessibility in a Canvas Syllabus

Margaret L. Signorella

Margaret L. Signorella, Ph.D.
Professor and Program Coordinator
Psychology and Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
The Pennsylvania State University, Greater Allegheny Campus
msignorella@psu.edu
Objectives

• Identify key accessibility concerns that apply to a course syllabus

• Describe ways to create an accessible online syllabus

• Describe ways to create an accessible document syllabus

• Identify methods of testing each type of syllabus for accessibility
Why do I care?

- Accessibility is fair and inclusive
- Accessibility benefits everyone (e.g., see Gose, 2016, CHE) - AKA Universal Design
  - video captions
  - no time limits
  - clean, organized web pages and handouts

Accessibility Concerns in a Syllabus: Design

• Blockers
  • page title
  • headings and hierarchies
  • links
  • alt tags for images
  • tables

Blockers and beyond the blockers. http://accessibility.psu.edu/blockers/
Accessibility Concerns in a Syllabus: Policy

- Being clear about course requirements that might require accommodations
  - timed assessments
  - audio or video components
  - readings - are the formats accessible?
- Aiming for inclusive, positive, cooperative language
Creating the Accessible Canvas Syllabus

• Entry from built-in Canvas syllabus page (see Pyatt, 2016)

• Create new page in Canvas to display syllabus details

Use Canvas Page to Include Accessible Text

- Page title - Canvas will make this H1
- Headings - organized, hierarchical using Heading tags
- Links
  - Greater than one word descriptions of link
  - NEVER click here
  - Canvas print option prints out entire hyperlink along with description


Link text http://accessibility.psu.edu/linktext/

Accessibility Syllabus Statement Language http://accessibility.psu.edu/courses/syllabus/
Use Canvas Page to Include Accessible Images

- Consider designing your syllabus so it does not need images to present required elements

- Images can help structure a page and be accessible but most users lack design skills to be effective

- If you want to include images
  - alt text for the images must be used
  - Canvas defaults to the name of the image (usually bad or useless)
  - create a word picture of the image

Examples are here: [https://accessiblesyllabus.tulane.edu/image/](https://accessiblesyllabus.tulane.edu/image/)

[https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2060](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-2060)
Use Canvas Page to Include Accessible Tables

- Tables are useful for grade cut-offs and listings of points for assignments
- Tables should not be used to place text or pictures
- PSU College of Agriculture has an online accessible table app that takes an Excel table and provides the html to place into the Canvas (or any other) page.
  - tables still should not be too complex
  - choose option on app for responsible design so that the table will work for sighted users on mobile devices

http://webtools.cas.psu.edu/table-maker/
Testing Structural & Design Accessibility

WAVE http://wave.webaim.org/

Illinois Functional Accessibility Evaluator (FAE) http://disability.illinois.edu/accessible-it-group/web-accessibility/evaluation-and-design-tools
FAE login with Penn State credentials https://fae.illinois.edu/
Testing Structural & Design Accessibility

• Canvas syllabus
  • Follow the rules and the pages should be accessible

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  - Follow the rules and the pages should be accessible
  - Online tools - require public pages

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- Screenreader tools - can test any page

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WAVE http://wave.webaim.org/

Exported syllabus page used in test:
http://www.personal.psu.edu/sdq/articles/TestSyllabusPage.html
WAVE [http://wave.webaim.org/](http://wave.webaim.org/)

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PSYCH 301W Syllabus Fall 2016

Objectives

- introduce you to the methods for conducting research in psychology
- identify and apply the ethical standards for conducting research in psychology
- help you understand basic issues in research such as hypothesis testing and threats to validity and apply that knowledge in
- provide practice at analyzing and interpreting data resulting from research
- teach you how to write behavioral science research reports using APA style.

Besides the readings in your text, you will have a variety of assignments aimed at giving you experience in research design, report data analysis, library research, and computers.

Requirements

Text

WAVE http://wave.webaim.org/

Exported syllabus page used in test:
http://www.personal.psu.edu/sdq/articles/TestSyllabusPage.html
An Accessible Syllabus Document?

- MS Word is the preferred format for a document syllabus
- Can be linked from Canvas syllabus page
- Accessibility tools are included in MS Word
- Screenreader tools can be used to read documents and test for accessibility
- No easy way to create web and doc versions simultaneously (i.e., make in one format and transfer seamlessly to the other).
References

- Accessibility and Usability at Penn State. accessibility.psu.edu
- Illinois Functional Accessibility Evaluator (FAE) http://disability.illinois.edu/accessible-it-group/web-accessibility/evaluation-and-design-tools