

# Digital Learning User Experience (DLUX): Improving Digital Learning

**Maria Babko**

Double Major in Computer  
Science & Communication, Minor  
Innovation and Design

**Brandy Garcia**

Double Major in Business  
Administration & Writing Studies,  
Minor Innovation and Design

**Emma J. Rose, Faculty Advisor**

Writing Studies + Innovation & Design

Associate Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, UW Tacoma  
Affiliate Associate Professor Human Centered Design & Engineering, UW Seattle

Instructors had to rush  
to online teaching  
during COVID

Many students enjoy  
online learning due  
to it's flexibility

Many instructors want to  
continue to develop their  
online teaching skills

# How might we improve online learning experiences at UWT?



# PRINCIPLES FOR ONLINE LEARNING

---

**Alignment** - Critical course components work together to ensure that learners achieve the stated learning outcome

---

**Course Orientation and Structure** - Course elements and organization assist learners in identifying course expectations and successfully navigating the course itself.

---

**Engagement** - The instructor establishes and maintains a clear presence in the course and creates opportunities for dialogue and sharing between learners.

---

**Accessibility and Inclusion** - Course content and activities reflect inclusive, accessible design principles and practices.

---

**Assessment** - Course assessments provide learners with multiple opportunities to achieve outcomes.

# METHODS: USABILITY STUDIES

Usability study - A research method from human centered design that helps identify areas for improvement, where

- Representative users
- Complete realistic tasks
- While an interdisciplinary team collects data
- To make improvements!

---

In our  
study in  
Spring  
2023:

---

5 student researchers +

---

5 professors + 5 classes

---

30+ UWT students

---

45-90 minute sessions

---

15 tasks

---



# RESULTS: GENERAL THEMES



Students seek most of their information about the course and assignments in the syllabus



Students struggles with text heavy syllabi and instructions



Modules are the key place students interact with a course and appreciate when they are highly organized and clear



Students sense and feel instructor's engagement with the course through announcements and feedback

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & NEXT STEPS

## **DLUX Student Researchers**

- Maria Babko
- Brandy Garcia
- Suweyda Abdi
- Y Lai
- LJ Norman

## **2023 Faculty Clients**

- Leighann Chaffee
- Jane Compson
- Marion Eberly
- LeAnne Laux-Bachand
- Rita Than

## **DLUX facilitators**

- Emma Rose
- Libi Sundermann

with

- Chris Lott & Darcy Janzen  
from the Office of Digital  
Learning