Usability Questions for Online Courses

General Course Usability

- Are your learning outcomes easy to find and clearly tied to modules and assessments?
- Does your beginning-of-the-semester course home page include a brief introduction to the course and explicit instructions on what to do first?
- Do students have a single main path to follow to move through the course?
- Are there clear, easy-to-find instructions for contacting both you and UITS Tech Support?

Text Content and Instructions

- Do your page titles accurately describe page content?
- Are your content pages, assignment instructions, etc. written in an active, 2nd-person voice?
- Have your content pages, assignment instructions, etc. been proofread?
- Do your pages, syllabus, assignments, etc. use headings and indenting to help readers follow your organizational structure?
- Are your instructions clear to people with a student-level understanding of the concepts?
- Are there rubrics, models, or examples to help students understand what they are supposed to do?
- Are all links in your content and instructions working and have some description of what the link is to and what the student is to do once they follow the link?

Visuals and Multimedia Usability

- Do your page titles accurately describe page content?
- Are your content pages, assignment instructions, etc. written in an active, 2nd-person voice?
- Have your content pages, assignment instructions, etc. been proofread?
- Do your pages, syllabus, assignments, etc. use headings and indenting to help readers follow your organizational structure?
- Are your instructions clear to people with a student-level understanding of the concepts?
- Are there rubrics, models, or examples to help students understand what they are supposed to do?
- Are all links in your content and instructions working and have some description of what the link is to and what the student is to do once they follow the link?

Visual Design Questions

- Do you have relevant images (charts, graphs, diagrams, pictures) to break up longer sections of text?
- Do your images have a similar look and feel to them (photos with photos, line drawings with line drawings, etc.)?
- Are your images illustrating concepts or providing examples (not only decorative)?
- Do different sections of your page have enough white space around them to be clear what belongs with each one?
- Is your text almost all left aligned (unless you're teaching a language that reads right to left)?
- Is your text almost all in the default font size?