



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Syllabus and Course Content Review – Rubric

This optional rubric is intended as a *self-assessment or departmental discussion tool* to help faculty determine that course syllabi and course content reflect Auburn University’s standards of academic freedom, objectivity, transparency, and compliance with Alabama Act 2024-34 (Ala. Code § 41-1-90 et seq.).

Guideline	Evidence of Alignment	Notes
General Guidelines		
The syllabus reflects Auburn’s commitment to academic freedom as stated in the Faculty Handbook (Chapter 3, Section 3.1).	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
The course syllabus and/or content encourages scholarly debate and critical inquiry within disciplinary standards.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Divisive Concepts are framed objectively and without personal endorsement.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Compliance Awareness		
Faculty have reviewed Alabama Act 2024-34 and university guidance.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
The course syllabus and/or content includes no content or activity that could compel students to adopt or affirm a Divisive Concept.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Scholarly Objectivity		
Instructional materials are evidence-based, discipline-appropriate, and balanced in perspective.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Third-party or standardized content has been assessed to support compliance standards and is presented objectively.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Critical and Independent Thinking		
Syllabus language encourages analytical reasoning and intellectual independence.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Students are clearly informed that they are not required to agree with any viewpoint or concept.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Learning Goals and Course Objectives		
Course learning objectives are measurable, transparent, and aligned with disciplinary standards.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Course description and outcomes reflect Auburn’s mission of fostering curiosity, free thought, and critical analysis.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Learning Environment		
The course syllabus and/or content outlines expectations for civility, open dialogue, and active listening.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Course syllabus and/or content promote respectful engagement across differing perspectives.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Classroom behavior policy and reporting procedures are linked or referenced.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

Transparency		
Grading criteria and assessment methods are clearly defined and objective.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Course expectations are reviewed at the start of the term and revisited as needed.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Documentation and Recordkeeping		
Faculty retain copies of the syllabus, course materials, and relevant communications for documentation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Updates and revisions are communicated clearly to students.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Sample Syllabus Statement Review		
The syllabus includes, if appropriate, a statement clarifying that students may encounter challenging ideas but are not required to agree with any particular position.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
No personal diversity statements or required diversity reflections are present unless mandated for accreditation.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	