

The Ignatian Syllabus

The elements of the Ignatian Pedagogy Paradigm – **context, experience, reflection, action, and evaluation** – can be useful when developing syllabi for courses in a Jesuit university. But these elements also represent the basic essentials of any good syllabus. The Ignatian Pedagogy Paradigm, then, can function as a useful self-assessment tool, helping instructors to ensure that they are designing syllabi effectively, and/or they can offer way to frame explicitly the layers of any deep learning experience.

Toward an Ignatian Syllabus

The Ignatian Pedagogy Paradigm might inform the content and/or structure of a course in a variety of ways. At a minimum, the basic components of most standard syllabi already fit neatly into the same structure as these five elements. Shaping your syllabus around the Ignatian Pedagogy Paradigm might lead students to become more reflective and intentional about their learning.

Syllabus Section	Possible Contents
Context	Course content, objectives, and other information; instructor information; policies and other expectations; etc.
Experience	Assumptions about students' previous experiences with course content (e.g., pre-requisites); descriptions of the kind of <i>learning experiences</i> (e.g., interactive) you want to create; etc.
Reflection	Expectations about how students should engage course content; reflections from you about how the course content is meant to connect to other learning students are doing; meta-cognitive exercises or assignments students may be asked to complete; etc.
Action	Assignments and tasks in which students will apply their learning (e.g., essays, exams, projects, etc.); community-based service learning expectations (if any); etc.
Evaluation	Descriptions of grading policies (i.e., how students will be evaluated); expectations about how students will evaluate the course; standards / expectations for providing feedback to others (e.g., peers, patients); etc.

For more information on Ignatian pedagogy, its origins in Ignatian spirituality and the Spiritual Exercises, or ways you might use it to structure and prioritize your own course materials, contact the Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching & Learning (phone: 314.977.3944 or email: cttl@slu.edu), or visit the Resources section of our website, at cttl.slu.edu.