

Online Teaching Assistants: Assisting Faculty in Online Courses

Learning Outcomes

- Summarize tips for supporting faculty in online courses.
- Identify areas where teaching assistants can support a Community of Inquiry.

Module Description

This course is for Teaching Assistants (TAs) with responsibilities related to assisting faculty in online courses such as chat moderation during synchronous sessions, grading, office hours, and other roles. TAs in online courses who are responsible for the facilitation and design of online classes should also complete the module Facilitating and Planning Online Classes.

- I. Video 1: [Introduction](#)
- II. Reading 1: [Roles of Online TAs at American University](#).
- III. Resource 1: [American University Service Now Learning Support Services](#). Search for answers to some questions. Find answers to the following questions:
 - a. What does synchronous mean?
 - b. What makes an online course different than an in-person course?
 - c. What are some strategies for facilitating virtual classes?
- IV. Resource 2: [Academic Support Services](#) in the CTRL Syllabus Guide. The academic support services section of the syllabus guide includes information that can be communicated to students about various support available at AU.
- V. Video 2: [Summary](#)

VI. Reflection Questions

- a. What are some strategies for facilitating online classes?
- b. What responsibilities will you have as TA in your online course? Do you need to meet with the faculty member you are assisting to clarify?
- c. What academic support services should you be aware of for students?

Additional Readings

- Nilson, L. B. & Goodson, L. A. (2017). [Applying cognitive science to online teaching and learning strategies](#). In L. B. Nilson & L. A. Goodson, *Online teaching at its best: Merging instructional design with teaching and learning research* (pp. 79-106). Wiley.
- Whiteside, A., Dikkers, A., & Lewis, S. (2014, May 19). [The power of social presence for learning](#). *Educause*.
- French, P. (n.d.). [Teaching online: Basic skills for TAs](#). Pressbooks.

Help and Support at AU

- Find answers to existing instructional questions and ask your own on the [American University Service Now Learning Support Services](#) website.



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