

# Using a modular approach to designing your course

The best way to build flexibility into a course is to think in terms of modules. This is a common approach in online courses, but using it in all your classes will make it easier to shift between class formats. You may already do that

to some extent, but a modular approach requires learning goals for smaller elements of your course and explicit instructions that students can follow on their own. Here's one way to think about that.

## Semester

Each course should have clear learning goals for the semester. Students meet those goals by successfully completing assignments and assessments.

### Unit 1

Reading, in-class work, exam

### Unit 2

Reading, in-class work, exam

### Unit 3

Reading, in-class work, exam

### Unit 4

Reading, in-class work, exam

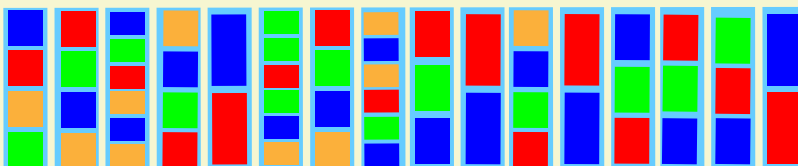
### Units

Some courses break a semester into units. In this example, the semester has four units of equal length, and each unit has an exam for assessment.

## Week by week

Breaking a course into weekly segments makes it easier to identify smaller learning goals and smaller assessments. Each weekly goal builds toward the overall course goals.

## Assignments and assessments within each week



### Tasks

Within each week, students complete a variety of tasks. Setting goals and assessments for each task can provide a clear path for students and an easier way for instructors to shift course material between online and in-person.