

Time Commitment

[Note to faculty: Remember to customize highlighted content.]

Some students sign up for online classes because they think it will be faster and easier than face-to-face courses. No parking, no class meetings . . . maybe the whole course can be done in a week! These students quickly realize, however, that this is a myth rather than reality.

Online courses follow the same state and college guidelines as face-to-face classes in terms of required work and weekly time commitment. In fact, most students find online courses take slightly longer than face-to-face courses since much of the material that would traditionally be delivered in a lecture needs to be read in an online course.

This is a 3-unit course. Using the Carnegie Unit, college courses require 1 hour of in-class work and 2 hours of homework weekly for each unit. So, a 3-unit course requires approximately 3 hours of class and 6 hours of homework per week. This means that each 3-unit course you take requires approximately 9 hours per week--it makes no difference if the class is face-to-face or online.

The weekly modules in this class have been carefully planned to work within this requirement. In order to be successful in this class, you should plan to invest about 9 hours each week. You will spend this time reading our texts; working through the online lecture content for the week (including videos); contributing text, audio, and video posts to our discussions; and planning, writing, and revising essays and a project.

As you plan your time for the course, think about how you work best. Though you may attend a traditional class on only two days a week, you most likely do your homework on other days, right? You probably work on a traditional class 4 or 5 days each week, and you should expect to do the same for an online course. The due dates in this class are designed to encourage you to spread the work over multiple days--your learning will be much deeper this way.

- The first half of the week is dedicated to reading our literature and working through lecture materials.
- By Wednesday, you take a quiz to gauge what you have learned.
- By Thursday, you are asked to post your initial contribution to our discussion.
- On Friday and Saturday you return to the discussion to read and respond to new posts as conversations develop.

One of the best things you can do--right now--is block out time in your schedule for this course. Decide when you will work on the above elements, and calendar these times. Just like with exercise, you are much more likely to do it if it's on your calendar!

