# Syllabus Scavenger Hunt:

## Purpose

There are two purposes for doing a syllabus scavenger hunt. The first is to help students sort through your syllabus and get to the heart of what you want them to know. The second is to help them begin to build a rapport with their colleagues.

## Adapt to suit your class

### Class size

If you have a large class, or an online class, you may wish to use the "quizzes" feature of Brightspace for the scavenger hunt. If you do, you may debrief the results with students to look for commonly missed items; clear up misconceptions; etc. As a bonus, if you are using Brightspace to administer tests, the scavenger hunt will be a good low-stakes way to get students familiar with the quiz interface.

If you have a small to mid-sized class, you may wish to break students up into groups and have them work together. This will be a good low-stakes way for students to start building rapport with one another.

### Questions

The questions below are meant to get you started. Remember, one of the purposes of this activity is to guide students to the key aspects of your class that you want them to focus on. You are not trying to waste their time hunting for arcane information, like the publication date of the textbook. Rather, you are trying to help students sift through the syllabus and pull out the gems that will help them be successful in your course.

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF
TEACHING AND
LEARNING

# Instructions for students

## Small to mid-sized classes

### Purpose

There are two purposes of this activity. The first is to sift through the syllabus and find the information that will help you be successful this semester. The second is to start building a rapport as a class.

Let's take a few minutes to introduce ourselves and get to know the people you'll be learning alongside this term. Get into groups of 2-3 students, introduce yourselves, and note each person's name and preferred contact information below.

Once you've met your group, work together to find the answers to the questions on the scavenger hunt. When you're finished, pair up with another group and share what you've learned. This is a great opportunity to expand your network; learn from your peers; and pull out the key information that will help you be successful this semester.

## Large class instructions

### Purpose

There are two purposes of this activity. The first is to sift through the syllabus and pull out the key information that will help you be successful this semester. The second is to establish that I want you to be successful in this course. I want to know that you are secure in the knowledge that we can start the semester successfully. Please be sure to answer all the questions so that I can be responsive to items that are unclear.

# Scavenger Hunt Questions:

1. What percentage of the final grade is based on class attendance?

2. What should you do if you encounter technical difficulties and are unable to complete your work in the manner described in the syllabus?

3. What different types of writing assignments will you be practicing in this course?

4. What is the course policy for activities like texting, phone calls, or side conversations during class time?

5. Which assignments are eligible for late submission, and how will that impact your grade?

6. How should you go about getting an absence excused?

7. What is the role for AI in this class?

8. What constitutes plagiarism, and why is it crucial to understand and avoid it?

9. How can you get help with difficult concepts in this class?

10. How does the instructor wish to be addressed?

11. What are you most apprehensive about in this syllabus?

12. What excites you about this syllabus?

This scavenger hunt is a great way to familiarize yourselves with the course policies and expectations. But more importantly, it's an opportunity to start building connections with your classmates. I encourage you to continue reaching out and supporting one another throughout the semester. Let's make it a great term!