Teaching in condensed courses

When your KPU courses are scheduled to run in a shorter timeframe than the more common 13-week semester, it can be challenging! This one-page guide may be helpful in rethinking your course design for delivering condensed courses.

Communicate

Communicate with your students frequently. Provide your availability and contact information in your welcome email and on the course site for easy access

Humanize

Humanize the course by reaching out to students before the course begins (welcome), having an initial synchronous session purely to "get to know" each other and review the course outcomes, expectations, and course layout

Build Community

Build community and encourage peer feedback through the use of discussion forums, break-out groups, or collaborative activities or assignments

Encourage

Encourage participation and reflection - provide reflective prompts and questions in forums, and in synchronous sessions

Focus

Focus on pertinent readings, videos, and other media. Do not overwhelm your students with excessive information

Gauge

Gauge learning and provide formative feedback along the way. Give initial feedback to the whole group so they clearly understand the expectations when you provide individual feedback

References & Resources

Kops, William J. (2014). Teaching compressed-format courses: Teacher-based best practices. Canadian Journal of University Continuing Education, 40(1):1-18.

Walsh, K. P, Sanders, M., & Gadgil, S. (2019). Equivalent but not the Same: Teaching and Learning in Full Semester and Condensed Summer Courses. College Teaching, 67(2), 138-149.