

Tips for a simple online course structure

Online courses come in many shapes and forms – with varying degrees of complexity.

Regardless of approach, aim for formats that engage your learner.

One approach – simple? Low budget?

Here's a moderately low budget approach seen on coursera. While the course is quite well done, it seems it can be developed fairly quickly (and relatively cheaply) and still produce an engaging quality product.



Check these tips for a simple online course structure.

1. **Course structure.** Have a moderate number of short modules (e.g., up to 5-6)
 2. **Learning Objectives.** Be clear on the learning objectives. Start each module with an overview of the learning objectives for that module. These can be presented just once at the beginning of the module before entering Section 1 of that module.
 3. **Module structure.**
 - i. **Section structure.**
 1. Make each module with 5-6 separate short subsections (each subsection can be 2-6 minute recording plus quiz)
 2. Each subsection section can be the recorded narration of a few well-crafted PowerPoint slides.
 3. Have a 2-3 second **branded** (with music) intro and outro for each subsection.
 - ii. **Quizzes.** Follow each subsection with a short required 1-3 question quiz. Allow participants to take the quiz multiple times before advancing. Do this, by having them submit their answers, get the results instantly and see the correct answers. Then present participants with the option to advance to the next section or retake the quiz. Being able to retake each quiz reinforces learning if people aren't sure and it allows them to get all the questions right!. Have a final (still short) summary quiz at the end of each module.
- Final assessment.** There seems to be a final graded assessment (I'm not up to that yet)

So the general structure is:

Module 1

 Learning objectives

 Section 1

 Quiz 1

 Section 2

 Quiz 2

 etc.

Module 2

 etc.

4. **Income.** With each quiz, you might offer the option to pay to get a certificate when done - otherwise people can continue for free.