

Developer Notebook
Online Course: Real Estate 101
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Intended Grade Level:

This course has been developed for the intended audience of 12th grade students in high school and beyond. As a current Realtor, the need for a basic introduction to real estate is evident in the real estate world. Even first time home buyers could benefit from this online class. Even Realtors could use this course with their clients as an introduction to real estate.

Course Subject and Content:

This online course has been developed to provide the basic understanding of the real estate purchasing process, concepts and terminology. The course will provide a basic overview of:

- Real Estate terms
- How to choose a Realtor
- Mortgage Financing
- How to search for a home
- Making an offer to purchase
- Appraisals
- Home Inspections
- The Closing

A real estate transaction can be extremely involved and there are many specific and detailed segments of other topics that could be taught. This course has been designed to provide an individual that is not familiar with real estate a basic overview of real estate and to provide basic tools and resources along with tips for a potential home buyer. Even each topic in this course could be expanded upon I am sure, but again the idea is to introduce the basics

How is the course supposed to look?

My hope for the course was to make it:

- Interactive
- Colorful
- User friendly
- Use pictures, videos, graphics, or flowcharts/diagrams where appropriate and possible
- Contain useful resources and links to other sites

Course Participation and Interaction

Participation in the class with the students and instructor is very important. Being engaged in discussion regarding topics being covered and sharing thoughts and ideas plays a big part in the course. There are Discussion Forums and a Chat that has been built into this course to promote class collaboration, participation, thoughts and ideas, and networking with classmates. Assessments via quizzes have been added to the course to help measure student understanding of covered content. Lessons include written content and embedded videos that the student will watch as part of the module.

How do you think you will assess students?

Assignments include things as simple as contacting a lender or realtor, searching for a home of the students' interest and providing the class with feedback on the experience. In addition, RSS feeds have been added so students can keep up with the latest and greatest regarding real estate. These articles could be referenced so the student can add comments to their discussion posts that may relate to the module content.

Potential Social, Ethical, Legal, and Human Issues:

As we know, based on current economic conditions, not everyone will have the opportunity to purchase a home in their lifetime. So this course could be a sensitive topic to some students. It is important that the students understand that the goal of this course is to give all individuals the basic understanding of real estate and home ownership. This course contains great information that everyone should know, regardless of whether they want to own a home or not. One of the reasons the course is more generic and not very detailed is because we always want to comply with any State and Federal Regulations regarding real estate.

Ethical and human issues surrounding the participation might be an invasion of privacy if they do not want to share their financial information or financial goal information with the class or a lender.

The Learning Management System:

Determining what CMS system to use was a bit of a challenge. In the end I chose Moodle to develop the course in. I used a decision tool to help me decide which learning management system to use. The tool actually recommended Angel Suite 7.3 but I chose Moodle due to the "no cost" and user friendly aspect of the program. Moodle is recommended for individuals with little online course design experience. It offered features such as discussion forums, chats, quizzes, assignment drop box, RSS Feed section and a Widget section. I used the Widget section to add a Loan Calculator for students.

Course Learning Objectives:

This course examines the basic fundamentals of how to purchase a home. Technology has taken real estate to a new level. The goal for this online course is for the student to gain the knowledge and understanding of key components of purchasing a home and the expected process flow of a real estate transaction. This course is about providing students with the necessary real estate tools and resources available to assist in the process of purchasing a home.

Post Course Learning Outcomes:

The student should have basic real estate terminology, be able to use a variety of resources to search for a home via the Internet. Upon completion of this course, students should have a good understanding of the following topics regarding real estate:

- How to find a Realtor and a Lender
- Advantages of Home Ownership
- Financing Options
- Real Estate Terminology
- Online Resources
- Home Inspections
- Appraisals
- Closing a real estate transaction

Learning Assessment:

As with any course, assessment of learning is very important. In this course the primary assessment of learning will be via assignment, participation, thoughtful and quality discussion forum posts and responsive feedback post to classmates, and completing quizzes.

Communication Policy:

The following should be used as a standard regarding communication during the class for issues, comments, posts and feedback.

Communication is really the key to life and becoming successful. It is important that you know I am available any time. Please email me about with individual questions about the course or other items that need to be discussed. I will be posting in to the discussion forum throughout the course, but that is just one part of my interaction with the class. Email exchanges with you individually are not required but welcome if you have any concerns or comments about the course.

Student participation in the discussion forums will be a portion of your grade for this course. An email communication will be sent out each time a new discussion forum is available. The Discussion Forum will be a place to share and develop ideas together.

The expectation is that thoughtful consideration and feedback is given to other students posts on the discussion forum. I will be looking at quality of the content posted more than the length of the post. It is important to post your comments early enough in the week to allow for other students to have time to evaluate the comments and respond prior to the due date. Ideally it is expected that you post your thoughts or ideas on the assigned topic and respond to at least two or more of your classmate's responses.

I will be available for parent communication via email at lindem36@msu.edu.

Course Rubric:

This course was designed to be an educational resource for not only 12th grade students, but adults who want to learn about the basics of purchasing a home. One of the main goals and considerations for the rubric in the course is for students to become thoughtfully engaged in the use of resources available to them online and beyond that will assist them in someday searching for a home.

Even though there are many resources available online, the purchase of a piece of property requires a collaborative communicative effort with other individuals and business professionals. Therefore, the discussion forums and writing assignment are an important piece to this course. Providing thoughtful discussion in the forums will assist in developing the students' communication skills. It is important for any person searching for a home to share their experiences and available resources with others because purchasing a home is most likely the biggest financial decision a person will make and commit to in their lifetime.

The variety of assignments and assessments during the course will increase communication, listening, and observation skills of the student whether the communication is online or in person. The rubric will be assessing the structure, depth of effort and individual research of topic content in responses posted and written assignments. There are a couple of quizzes in the course but those are instant feedback for the student to evaluate specific components discussed in the course.

Students will be involved in the assessment process throughout the course as they will be able to use the rubric as a self check point at any time during the course to assess their selves to see if they are on target. The rubric will be posted to the course site for reference to students throughout the course.

Areas of concentration and focus for this course were content and usage of available topic related resources?

- Is the content relevant to the learning the basics of a real estate transaction from beginning to end?
- Is the content well written and does it have a user friendly flow?
- Were other technology resources such as videos and articles used throughout?

Here is the link to my Real Estate 101 Rubric:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/msu.edu/viewform?hl=en&formkey=dEhqWUdDenQ3MHFIQjdjU2J0Q3F1Qmc6MQ#gid=0>