

Create a welcome widget

Tip: Create a generic course with the correct dates, weeks, and generic course preferences like grades. Copy this course to your other courses before you populate content to get the format for each course right for the semester.

1. Create your welcome widget
 - 1.1. Click Course Admin / Widgets
 - 1.2. Click Create Widget
 - 1.3. Give it a name like “Welcome Back”
 - 1.4. Under Content, add what you want.
 - An animated GIF makes for a less boring page.
 - I don’t like my picture as it creeps me out all semester when students open D2L
 - Phone and email contact information is helpful to students.
 - Links to you faculty page with office hours is a possibility too.

2. Create a homepage template for your course. You can edit a copied homepage template, which is necessary to change widgets.
 - 2.1. Click Course Admin / Homepages
 - 2.2. Click copy in dropdown next to Course Default (v10)
 - 2.3. Click the copy titled “Course Default (v10) – Copy”
 - 2.4. Change the homepage name to something you like.
 - 2.5. Add your new widget with the button at the bottom.
 - 2.6. You can change which widgets show in your course and change the order. For example, I normally move my welcome widget to the top right by dragging the eight dots symbol when you mouse over the widget.
 - 2.7. Save the homepage when you are done.
 - 2.8. Make your new homepage the active homepage for the course by selecting it and clicking apply.