

Constructional Alignment and Learning Goals

Sarah von Grebmer

15/02/2026

Credit statement and licence

Possible roles using the CRediT contribution system:

- **Conceptualization:** Ideas; formulation or evolution of overarching research goals and aims
- **Methodology:** Development or design of methodology; creation of models
- **Software :** Programming, software development; designing computer programs; implementation of the computer code and supporting algorithms; testing of existing code components
- **Validation:** Verification, whether as a part of the activity or separate, of the overall replication/ reproducibility of results/experiments and other research outputs
- **Formal analysis:** Application of statistical, mathematical, computational, or other formal techniques to analyze or synthesize study data
- **Investigation:** Conducting a research and investigation process, specifically performing the experiments, or data/evidence collection
- **Resources:** Provision of study materials, reagents, materials, patients, laboratory samples, animals, instrumentation, computing resources, or other analysis tools
- **Data Curation:** Management activities to annotate (produce metadata), scrub data and maintain research data (including software code, where it is necessary for interpreting the data itself) for initial use and later reuse
- **Writing - Original Draft:** Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically writing the initial draft (including substantive translation)
- **Writing - Review & Editing:** Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work by those from the original research group, specifically critical review, commentary or revision – including pre-or postpublication stages
- **Visualization:** Preparation, creation and/or presentation of the published work, specifically visualization/ data presentation

- **Supervision:** Oversight and leadership responsibility for the research activity planning and execution, including mentorship external to the core team
 - **Project administration:** Management and coordination responsibility for the research activity planning and execution
 - **Funding acquisition:** Acquisition of the financial support for the project leading to this publication
-

Prerequisites

! Prerequisites

Before completing this submodule, please carefully read about the necessary prerequisites.

Prerequisite	Description	Link/Where to find it
Topic Name	Basic intro to X	Module + Submodule
Software Name	Configuring the environment	Download Link

These are the **speaker notes**. You will a script for the presenter for every slide. In presentation mode, your audience will not be able to see these speaker notes, they are only visible to the presenter.

There are also **instructor notes**. For some slides, there will be pedagogical tips, suggestions for activities and troubleshooting tips for issues your audience might run into. You can find these notes underneath the speaker notes.

Questions from previous submodule

- **Aim:** This first slide is dedicated to clarifying questions from the previous submodule and/or to discuss assignments.
 - Additional slides may need to be added depending on the nature of the homework assignments.
 - Critical for the learning process to ensure that students are on the same page and have been able to achieve the learning goals of the previous workshop.
 - Not applicable if this set of slides corresponds to the first submodule of a new module.
-

Before we start: Survey time!

- **Aim:** The pre-submodule survey serves to examine students' prior knowledge about the submodule's topic.
 - Use free survey software such as or other survey software (particify, formR) to establish the following questions (shown on separate slides):
-

What is your level of familiarity with [Topic] (e.g., basic concepts, terminology, or tools)?

- I have never heard of it before.
 - I have heard of it but have never worked with it.
 - I have basic understanding and experience with it.
 - I am very familiar and have worked with it extensively.
-

Which of the following concepts or skills do you feel most confident about in relation to [Topic]? (Select all that apply)

- Concept 1
 - Concept 2
 - Concept 3
 - Concept 4
 - I am not sure about any of these concepts.
-

On a scale of 1 to 5, how comfortable are you with using [specific tool/technology] related to [Topic]? (1 = Not comfortable at all, 5 = Very comfortable)

- 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
-

Discussion of survey results

- **Aim**”: Briefly examine the answers given to each question interactively with the group.
- Use visuals from the survey to highlight specific answers.

Make it clear to the group that there will be a similar post-submodule survey to examine understanding and learning progress.

Where are we at?

- **Aim:** Place the topic of the current submodule within a broader context.
 - Remind students what you are working towards and what the bigger picture is.
-

Learning goals

- **Aim:** Formulate specific, action-oriented goals learning goals which are measurable and observable in line with Bloom’s taxonomy (Anderson et al., 2001; Bloom et al., 1956)
 - Place an emphasis on the **verbs** of the learning goals and choose verbs that align with the skills you want to develop or assess.
 - Examples:
 - Students will **describe** the process of photosynthesis or
 - Students will **construct** a diagram illustrating the process of photosynthesis
-

Covered in in this session

- **Aim:** This slides serves as an overview of the topics that are discussed, presented as bullet point:

(for now copied from Didactis2 go, use as basis only)

- Constructivism
- Constructive alignment
- Setting learning goals
- AVIVA-Schema

- Activation methods
 - Reflection
-

How much teaching experience do you have?

- e.g., workshops, peer training, (guest) lectures etc.



For in-person participants: Get people to stand along imaginary line across the room in terms of how much teaching experience they have. For online participants: Ask them to indicate experience on the screen. Pick out two people on either end of the spectrum (one from the in-person audience, one from online audience) and have them explain their teaching experience. Next, pick two people around the middle (one from the in-person audience, one from online audience) and have them explain and compare their experiences. Involve your audience as early as possible, so that they pay attention in case they get called upon.

How much have you already thought about didactics?



For in-person participants: Get people to stand along imaginary line across the room in terms of how much they think about didactics. For online participants: Ask them to indicate experience on the screen. Pick out two people on either end of the spectrum (one from

the in-person audience, one from online audience) and have them explain their teaching experience. Next, pick two people around the middle (one from the in-person audience, one from online audience) and have them explain and compare their didactic thinking processes.

How big are your teaching/training audiences?



For in-person participants: Get people to stand along imaginary line across the room in terms of how the audiences are they already train or teach. For online participants: Ask them to indicate their target audience size on the screen. Pick out two different people to discuss their respective target audiences.

Constructivism in learning

As a process, learning is ...

- active and self-controlled
- student-centered
- integrated in a broader context and a positive learning atmosphere
- social and emotional

Efgivia et al., 2021

Use of interactive white board/ interactive document. Collect interactively: Which factors were important for your learning process during your last workshop/seminar/course? When do you learn worst?

Constructivism: Core aspects

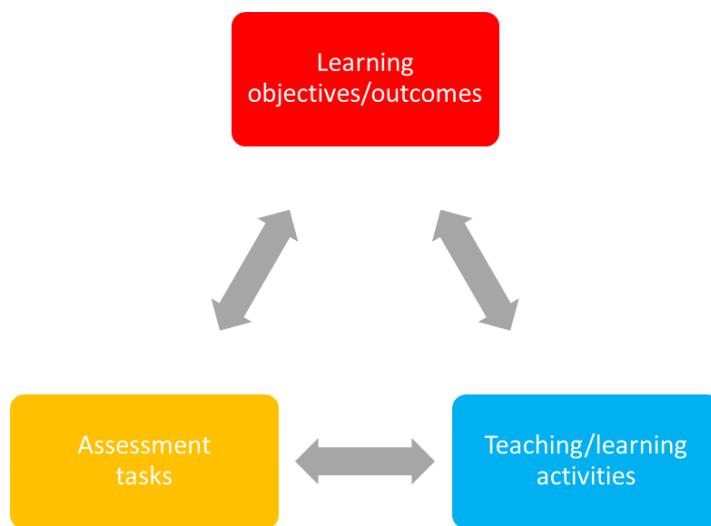
- Knowledge is actively constructed by the learner, not imposed
- Learners bring existing concepts to learning situations
 - Existing ideas need to be incorporated into teaching in order to challenge/change these
- Learners construct knowledge through interaction with physical world/ social settings and within specific cultural/linguistic environments
- Learning environment is integrated into the learning process

Ask what this could mean for the audience concretely. Call out specific names of audience members.

Sjoberg, 2010; Tauber, 2006

Constructional alignment

Focus here on learning objectives: what do we want (our audience) to achieve?

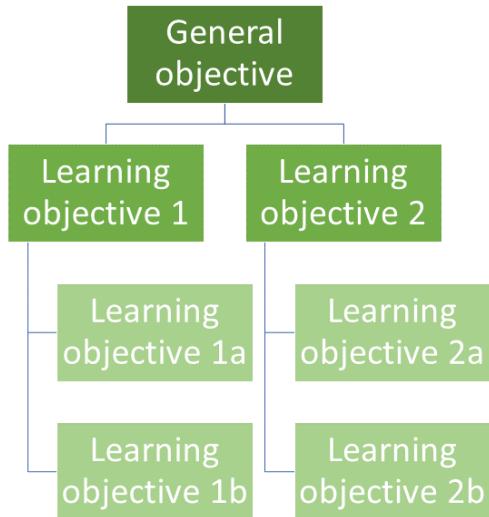


Biggs, 1996

Ask if someone in your audience has already heard about this concept. Ask to provide examples. ‘In constructive alignment, we start with the outcomes we intend students to learn, and align teaching and assessment to those outcomes. The outcome statements contain a learning activity, a verb, [that] verb says what the relevant learning activities are that the students need to undertake in order to attain the intended learning outcome. Learning is constructed by what activities the students carry out; learning is about what they do, not about what we teachers do. Likewise, assessment is about how well they achieve the intended outcomes, not about how well they report back to us what we have told them or what they have read’ (Biggs n.d.).

“Hierarchy” learning objectives

- What is the general objective of this course?
- What are specific individual learning objectives?



Bloom's taxonomy

- Three learning domains: cognitive, affective, psychomotor (<https://teaching.uic.edu/cate-teaching-guides/syllabus-course-design/blooms-taxonomy-of-educational-objectives/>)

cognitive	affective	psychomotoric
		origination
create		adaptation
evaluate	characterising	complex overt response
analyse	organising	mechanism
apply	valuing	guided response
understand	responding	set
remember	receiving	perception

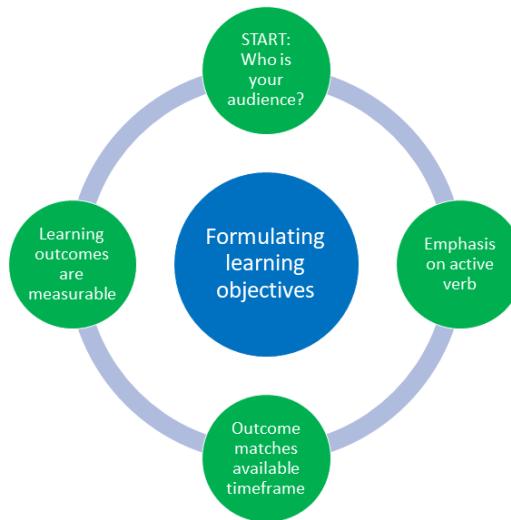
Additional slides on learning goals

Examples

Can you think of examples from your own experience on what aligned learning outcomes, assessment tasks and teaching activities could look like in practise?

Example: Learning objective = conducting an anamnestic interview with a patient. Teaching activites = role plays. Assessment task = Anamnestic interview with fake/real patient.

Formulating learning objectives



Example: Formulate one learning objective for your own seminar.

Pick a learning goal from previous examples or collect learning goals interactively. Examine learning goals more closely in the group and discuss what could be a suitable learning goal and why/why not. Focus on what verbs are being used.

Structuring your course

- Check your working conditions: how much time do I have? How long are the sessions? Milestones?
 - Plan time for orientation during first and last session: who is who? What is happening? What is expected? What remains unclear?
 - Formulate learning objectives for course
 - Formulate learning objectives for each session
-

Attitude towards your audience

What can you do to create a positive learning environment?

What do you think are key aspects of a positive attitude towards your audience? Collect on papers and then try to sort into verbally, body language and methods.

Attitudes towards your audience: Verbal

- Small-talk (yes, it is important)
 - Call by name
 - Validate and show appreciation
 - Paraphrase what audience members express
 - Give tangible examples
 - Ask open questions
 - Accept silences
-

Attitudes towards your audience: body language

- Maintain eye contact with students
 - Use non-verbal communication (shake head, use hands)
-

Attitudes towards your audience: methods

- Have introductory round
- Motivate audience to get involved as early as possible
- Observe the room
- Use different visualisation methods/tools

Collect examples for each one of the bullet points and what they could mean - add to the existing papers.

Interactive teaching methods

transition to activation method

Your turn!

Take 20 minutes in pairs to practise an activation method of your choice in the context of a topic of your choice. Each pair demonstrates the activity in “class”, with the rest acting as audience.

Interactively ask participants to provide feedback on the selected method, delivery and improvement points.

Literature

- Antosch-Bardohn, J. (2018): Nicht-intentionale Lernprozesse im Alltag von Studierenden. Logos Verlag.
 - Antosch-Bardohn, J., Beege, B., & Primus, N. (2019). In die Lehre starten. UTB GmbH.
 - Antosch-Bardohn, J. (2019): “Für mein Thema brennen die Studis” - Lernmotivation in der Hochschullehre. In: Neues Handbuch Hochschullehre. Nummer 89, S. 1-18.
 - Hofmann, E. & Löhle, M. (2004). Erfolgreich lernen. Hogrefe Verlag.
 - Kergel, D. & Heidkamp-Kergel, B. (2020). E-Learning, EDidaktik und digitales Lernen. Springer VS.
-

Thank you!

Key terms and definitions

- **Aim:** Introduce key terms and definitions that students will come across throughout the session.
- **Key Term 1:** Definition
- **Key Term 2:** Definition
- **Key Term 3:** Definition

Base yourself on conceptual change theory and examine existing concepts in relation to some key terms. Re-examine formation of new concepts at the end of the lesson.

Introduction of submodule topic

- **Aim:** Core theoretical introduction of submodule topic.
- Pair theoretical aspects with practical exercises and group discussions according to the Think-Pair-Share style and according to Cognitive Load Theory (Sweller, 1980).
- Use multiple slides for this part.

For a 90-minute lesson, the instructor should try to “lecture” for only 20 minutes, students should work in groups/pairs/on their own for at least 55 minutes of the lesson (+ a 15 minute break).

Submodule content slide

- **Aim:** Present relevant content
- Highlight particularly important aspects with Quarto call-out boxes, for example:

! Important with Title

This is an example of a callout box to highlight particularly important information.

? Tip with Title

This is an example of a callout box to give important tips.

Practical exercise 1

- **Aim:** Design more practical exercises for students to apply the new skills in practise.
- Depending on the topic, the exercises should be in accordance with the learning objective(s).
- Add a description of the task, as well as a checklist as an overview of that your students need to be doing.

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Pre-break survey

- **Aim:** This pre-break survey serves to examine students' current understanding of key concepts of the submodule
-

Use free survey software such as or other survey software (particify, formR) to establish the following questions (shown on separate slides):

Which species is the largest type of penguin?

- a. Chinstrap Penguin
 - b. Emperor Penguin
 - c. Adélie Penguin
 - d. King Penguin
-

What is the key biological feature that helps penguins swim efficiently?

- a. Hollow bones for buoyancy
 - b. Webbed feet for paddling
 - c. Waterproof feathers and flipper-like wings
 - d. Gills to breathe underwater
-

Break! 15 minutes

Post-break survey discussion

- **Aim:** To clarify concepts and aspects that are not yet understood
 - Highlight specific answers given during the survey
-

Practical Exercise 2

- **Aim:** Design more practical exercises for students to apply the new skills in practise.
- Depending on the topic, the exercises should be in accordance with the learning objective(s).
- Add a description of the task, as well as a checklist as an overview of what your students need to be doing.
 - Step 1
 - Step 2
 - Step 3

For students who advance faster: Prepare extra exercises.

Relevance and implications

- **Aim:** To work out the relevance of the topic to your students.
 - In an interactive setting, discuss how the new skills could be applied in practise with specific examples.
 - Examine downfalls and practical obstacles.
-

Take-home message

Aim: End lesson on clear take-home message that are interactively compiled by students.

Tip with Title

Add one practical tips or take-home message.

Assignment

- **Aim:** Explain the homework assignment and the rationale behind the homework.
 - Examine whether/how it will be assessed
 - Mention scoring rubrics, if applicable
 - Design a peer-review system for assignments to place students in role of reviewer and author
-

To conclude: Survey time!

- **Aim:** This post-submodule survey serves to examine students' current knowledge about the submodule's topic.
 - Use free survey software such as or other survey software (particify, formR) to establish the following questions (shown on separate slides):
-

What is your level of familiarity with [Topic] (e.g., basic concepts, terminology, or tools)?

- a. I have never heard of it before.
 - b. I have heard of it but have never worked with it.
 - c. I have basic understanding and experience with it.
 - d. I am very familiar and have worked with it extensively.
-

Which of the following concepts or skills do you feel most confident about in relation to [Topic]? (Select all that apply)

- a. Concept 1
- b. Concept 2

- c. Concept 3
 - d. Concept 4
 - e. I am not sure about any of these concepts.
-

On a scale of 1 to 5, how comfortable are you with using [specific tool/technology] related to [Topic]? (1 = Not comfortable at all, 5 = Very comfortable)

- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
 - e. 5
-

Discussion of survey results

- **Aim:** Briefly examine the answers given to each question interactively with the group.
 - Compare and highlight specific differences in answers between pre- and post-survey answers
-

References

- Provide literature you refer to throughout this lesson.
-

Thanks!

See you next class :)

Pedagogical add-on tools for instructors

- This section is dedicated to ideas on how to incorporate pedagogical tools into teaching for this specific submodule topic. This could mean:
 - Information about the scientific evidence on the theory of the pedagogical add-on tool and the evidence for its efficacy.
 - Discussion/reflection on how tools can be incorporated into the teaching for this particular content.
 - Extra exercises for faster students.
-

Additional literature for instructors

- References for content
 - References for pedagogical add-on tools
 - Other resources (videos etc.)
-

Formatting elements for instructors

- **Aim:** This section contains templates for different formatting elements, which can be modified and adapted for the instructor's individual purposes.
-

Text with example links

- [Quarto Documentation](#)
 - [Reveal.js Documentation](#)
 - [Markdown Guide](#)
 - [GitHub](#)
-

Basic text formatting

- **Bold:** ****bold**** → bold
 - *Italic:* ***italic*** → italic
 - **Strikethrough:** **~~text~~** → text
 - **Inline code:** **`code`** → code
 - **Blockquote:** > **Quote** →
“This is a quote”
-

Figure with caption

- Centered image and caption below in italics

This is a Penguin.

Figure with bullet points

- First bullet point
 - Second bullet point
 - Third bullet point
-

Side-by-side figures

Stacked figures with text

- First bullet point
 - Second bullet point
 - Third bullet point
-

Two-column text slide

Column 1

 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

 Vivamus lacinia odio vitae vestibulum.

 Cras venenatis euismod malesuada.

Column 2

 Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

 Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris.

Three-column text slide

Column 1

 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.

 Vivamus lacinia odio vitae vestibulum.

Column 2

 Sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

 Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris.

Column 3

 Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur.

Simple table

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Row 1 Cell	Row 1 Cell	Row 1 Cell
Row 2 Cell	Row 2 Cell	Row 2 Cell
Row 3 Cell	Row 3 Cell	Row 3 Cell
Row 4 Cell	Row 4 Cell	Row 4 Cell

Complex table

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Row 1 Cell	Row 1 Cell	Row 1 Cell
Row 2 Cell	Row 2 Cell	Row 2 Cell
Row 3 Cell	Row 3 Cell	Row 3 Cell
Row 4 Cell	Row 4 Cell	Row 4 Cell

Task list

- Done
 - To do
-

Embedding videos

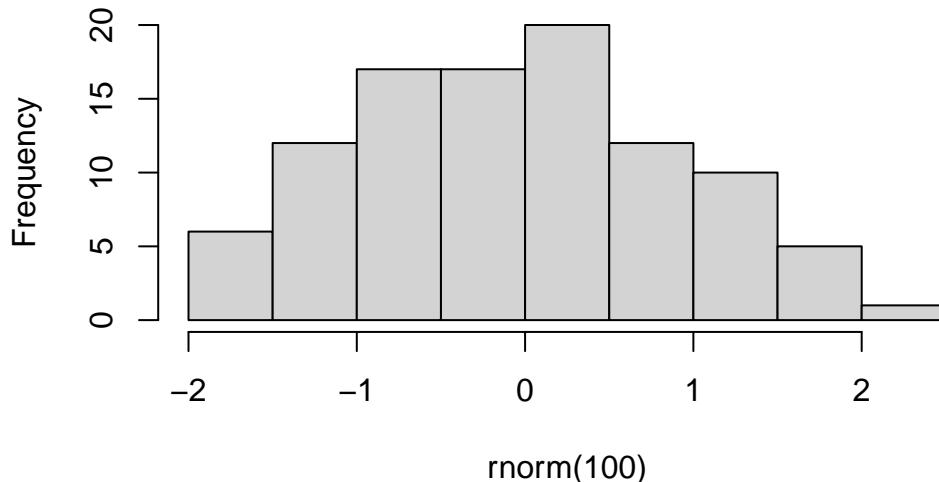
Code blocks

```
# A basic R code chunk
x <- 1:10
mean(x)
```

```
[1] 5.5
```

```
# A simple plot
hist(rnorm(100), main = "Histogram of Random Normals")
```

Histogram of Random Normals



Attribution and license details

- This slide should contain information about the license and attribution details of this current set of slides.
 - The default for the created materials is [CC-BY-SA 4.0](#)
 - = Creative Commons license that allows others to **share, adapt, and build upon** the original work
 - **only** if they attribute the creator and also share their new work under the **same terms**
 - allows for both **commercial and non-commercial** use of the licensed material
 - Components of attributions:
 - Title
 - Author
 - Source
 - License
-

Example attribution (for previous slide)

“[Tutorial template for student track](#)” by Sarah von Grebmer is licensed under [CC-BY-SA 4.0](#).
