Defining

Synchronous
"real time"

vs

Asynchronous
"self directed"

Timing

Synchronous learning happens live, in real time, between faculty and students. Courses typically have a set time in which you must participate each week.

Asynchronous learning happens when students and faculty collaborate at different times. While there are weekly deadlines, schedules are flexible. Faculty may offer optional virtual lectures and/or office hours.

Engagement

Synchronous courses allow for real-time communication, **providing space for faculty and student-led discussions and interaction.**

Asynchronous courses often have a more accommodating schedule for busy students, **providing more time to work at their own pace to form thoughts and opinions.**

Tools

Courses with synchronous meetings leverage conferencing tools like **Zoom, WebEx, and Blackboard Collaborate** to host live discussions and supplement content in Blackboard.

Asynchronous courses leverage Blackboard to provide learning materials such as **recorded videos, podcasts, discussion boards, and other tools**.

Anatomy of a Course Schedule

When looking at the **course schedule** there are two key items to be aware of before making your final selection: **class time and location**. Be sure to consider the scheduling-type that best fit your needs.

Fairfax Campus
Lecture Schedule Type
On-campus F2F 76-100% Instructional Method
3.000 Credits
View Catalog Entry

Scheduled Meeting Times

Type	Time	Days	Where	Date Range	Schedule Type
Class	1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	MW	Robinson Hall B104	Jan 25, 2021 - May 10, 2021	Lecture

Fairfax Campus
Lecture Schedule Type
On-campus F2F 50% Sync Instructional Method
3.000 Credits
View Catalog Entry

Scheduled Meeting Times

Type	Time	Days	Where	Date Range	Schedule Type
Class	1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	T	ON LINE	Jan 25, 2021 - May 10, 2021	Lecture
Class	1:30 pm - 2:45 pm	R	Enterprise Hall 80	Jan 25, 2021 - May 10, 2021	Lecture

Online Campus
Lecture Schedule Type
Off-campus F2F 0-1% Sync Instructional Method
3.000 Credits
View Catalog Entry

Scheduled Meeting Times

Type	Time	Days	Where	Date Range	Schedule Type
Class	12:00 pm - 1:15 pm	TR	ON LINE	Jan 25, 2021 - May 10, 2021	Lecture

Synchronous courses come in three different schedules: **On-campus, Hybrid, and Synchronous Online**. Attendance during posted times is expected.

- **On-campus** courses meet at a specified time each week in a designated building on campus.
- **Hybrid** courses meet at a specified time; however, lectures are online and on-campus.
- **Synchronous Online** courses meet at a specified time, but do not have in person meetings.

Online Campus
Lecture Schedule Type
Off-campus F2F 0-1% Async Instructional Method
3.000 Credits
View Catalog Entry

Scheduled Meeting Times

Type	Time	Days	Where	Date Range	Schedule Type
Class	TBA		ON LINE	Jan 25, 2021 - May 10, 2021	Lecture

Asynchronous courses only have one scheduling type. These classes are only offered online through Blackboard and do not have any required meeting times.