Your students' first impressions will influence their opinions and attitudes about your course.

- Let students know you are glad they are here. An inviting tone—somewhat informal, but still professional—is equivalent to a smile and a greeting to a student who walks through the door in a traditional class.
- Think about how your students might feel when they enter your course for the first time. To put students at ease, include the following:
  - A welcoming message and brief self-introduction
  - Specific instructions on how to begin the course
  - Icebreakers to build a sense of camaraderie and community