User Needs Report: Google Calendar Integration and UI/UX Improvements

Spring 2018

The current calendar in NYU Classes is not integrated with Google Calendar, which is widely used by students, faculty, and staff alike. We propose two general categories for improvement: 1) integrating the Classes calendar with Google calendar so that the two are synced and behave in similar fashion, and 2) making UI/UX improvements to the Classes calendar so that it is more Google-like in its interactions.

Integration

High Priority

- Events added to a Classes calendar will be automatically synced to a course-specific Google calendar for each member of the course, and vice-versa.
  - (A course calendar would appear in a student’s “Other Calendars” in Google Calendar, which students are able to toggle on and off.)
- Changes made to existing events in either calendar will be automatically synced.

Medium Priority

- Appointment slots added to a course calendar in Google will be automatically synced to the course calendar in Classes, and vice-versa.
- Allow students to view and sign up for available appointment slots on either calendar
- Give email notification options to the event creator
- Students will receive notifications by default

UI/UX Improvements

High Priority

- Ability to click on a calendar to add, move (drag-and-drop), and adjust the duration of events. In general, easier editing of events via modal windows instead of diving into different screens
- Ability to filter the calendar by event type (e.g., toggle on and off via checkbox). This would allow students to just see when all assignments are due, for example.
- The option to add dates to a calendar from the Assignment/Lessons/Tests & Quizzes tools will be defaulted (you currently have to check a box)
Extend UI improvements to each student’s individual calendar in their home site and include the ability to toggle on/off each course’s calendar and types of events. This would allow students to see where they have assignments due or exams due at the same time.

Medium Priority

- Create a scrolling 8-hour window. Currently the user must click on “Later” and “Earlier” buttons, which makes it easy to not see events.
- Use different colors for different types of events, rather than priority level (e.g., assignment due, test due, etc.)
  - Consult with Kitty re: color contrast and accessibility
- When copying recurring calendar items from one semester to another, enable user to change all dates by drag and drop (e.g. if a class meets T/Th one semester and Mon/Wed the next semester, make it easier to change all dates to reflect this change)
- Ability to view the Overview calendar by day (currently options are month or week)