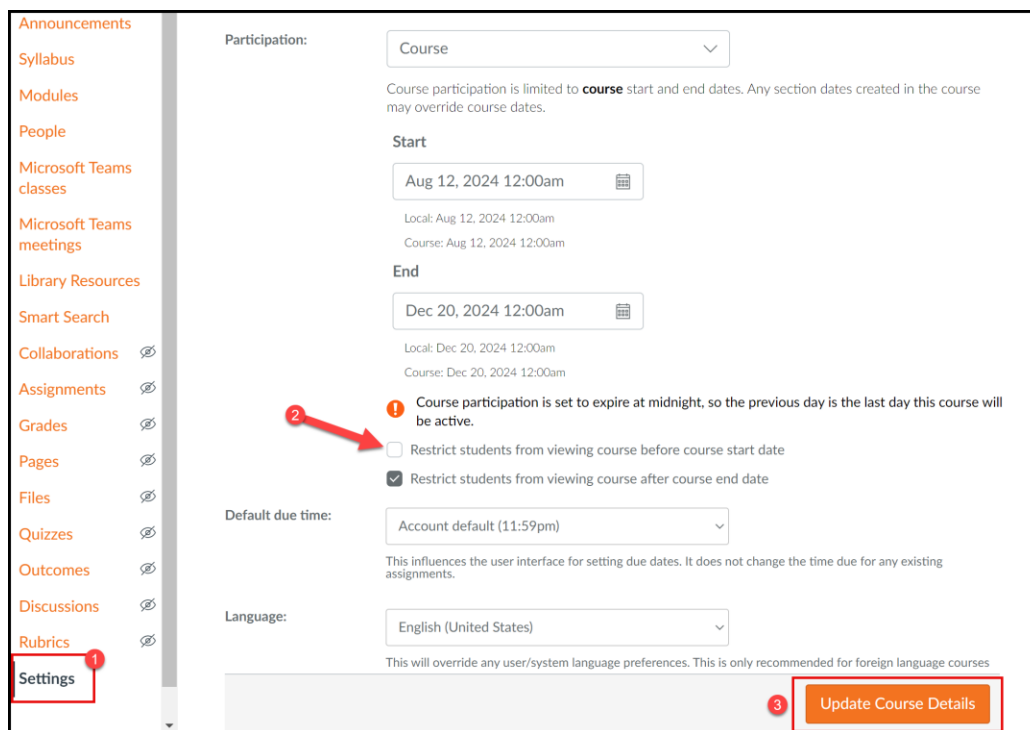## Allow Students Early Access to Courses Before Start Date

If an instructor wants to make the course accessible prior to its official start date, they have two options:

Option 1: Allow students to only view the course contents. (You can still unpublish any items in Modules you don't want students to see yet.)

Steps:
1. Publish the course. (Instruction: How do I publish a course?)
2. Make sure that in your course settings the "*Restrict students from viewing course before course start date*" option is unchecked.

Option 2: Allow students to both view the course contents and participate in course activities.
(Participation means that students can submit assignments, post discussions, upload files, or take part in any other action-based task within a course.)

Steps:
1. Publish the course. (Instruction: How do I publish a course?)
2. Adjust the course's start date to the desired date for student access. (Instruction: How do I change the start and end dates for a course?)

Helpful Flowchart:
- Student Course Visibility and Participation Flowchart.