

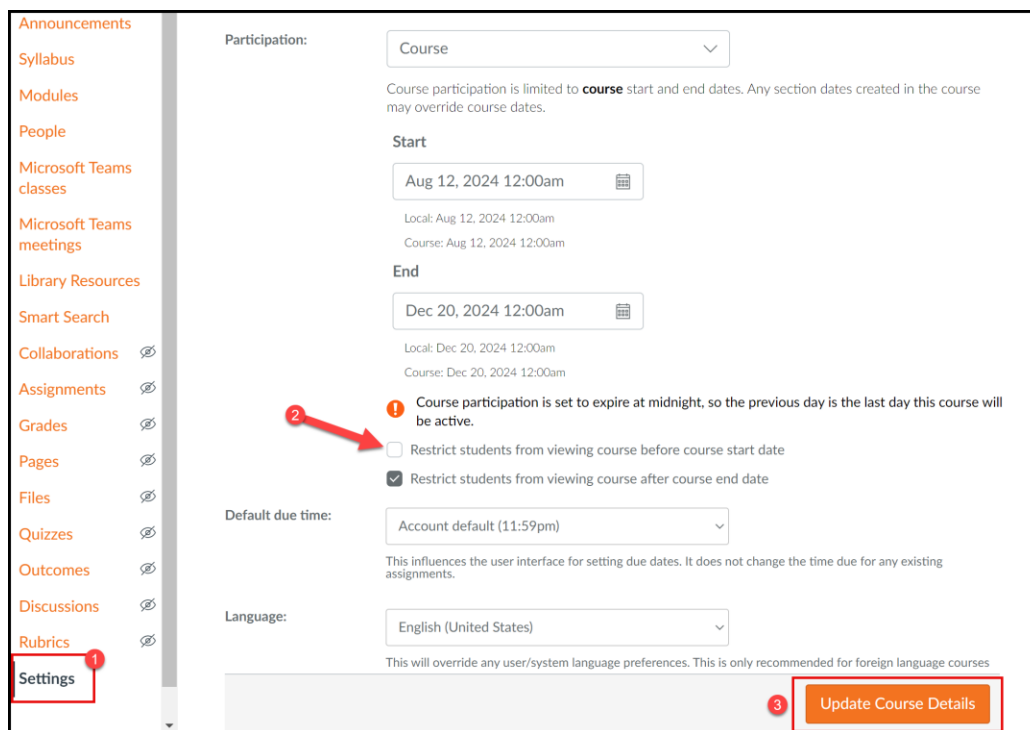
## Allow Students Early Access to Courses Before Start Date

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.



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Participation: Course

Course participation is limited to **course** start and end dates. Any section dates created in the course may override course dates.

Start

Aug 12, 2024 12:00am

Local: Aug 12, 2024 12:00am  
Course: Aug 12, 2024 12:00am

End

Dec 20, 2024 12:00am

Local: Dec 20, 2024 12:00am  
Course: Dec 20, 2024 12:00am

Course participation is set to expire at midnight, so the previous day is the last day this course will be active.

Restrict students from viewing course before course start date

Restrict students from viewing course after course end date

Default due time: Account default (11:59pm)

This influences the user interface for setting due dates. It does not change the time due for any existing assignments.

Language: English (United States)

This will override any user/system language preferences. This is only recommended for foreign language courses

Update Course Details

**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.](#)