Higher Education Academy: PhD student workshop, 8-9 February 2012.

**Pre-workshop task: An introduction to Islam: A one semester long module open to all students in the university.**

One of the key discussions we have been having in the Islamic Studies Network is the question of how to teach an introductory course about Islam or how to teach about Islam or Muslims to ‘non-specialists’. In this exercise you will develop an outline plan of a module called “An introduction to Islam” which will be made available to all students in the university. The exercise is based on the University of Southampton’s Curriculum Innovation Programme which enables students to study a module outside their home department (though the University of Southampton does not have a module on Islam). You can find out more about the programme here: <http://www.soton.ac.uk/cip/>

Read the background information carefully and fill in all the sections the best you can. Print out a copy and bring it along to the workshop with you.

On the second day of the workshop we will be getting together in groups to discuss our courses. You might like to rethink your own course in light of the thoughts of others. Printed blank copies of this form will be available at the workshop.

**Scenario**

The senior management at your university believes that all students should have the opportunity to take a module outside their subject area. They ask you to run a module called “An introduction to Islam” which will run for 1 semester. Your task in this exercise is to develop a module outline for “An Introduction to Islam.”

**Aims of the exercise**

1. To think about what (and how) you would teach about Islam in a 12 week course with 2 hours contact time per week.
2. Give you experience of planning a module
3. You may like to talk about the exercise or the issues raised in interviews for Islamic Studies teaching jobs.

You need to consider the following in designing your module:

1. The students taking the module could be from any discipline, e.g. religious studies, history, engineering, French, nursing, education, sociology, geology, law etc.
2. You cannot assume that the students will have formally studied Islam before, at school, university or elsewhere.
3. You cannot set any prerequisites.
4. You cannot assume that the students have knowledge of any language except English.
5. You have no idea how many students will sign up for your module. It could be 10. It could be 100.
6. Students will not necessarily take any further courses in Islam at university. In many cases they will not be allowed to study further courses outside their home department.
7. You will be teaching the course alone.
8. You will have 2 hours per week with the students for a total of 12 weeks.

**Module description** *This will be made available to all students in the university.*

ISLAM101: An Introduction to Islam

**Summary of the course content.** *Write a one paragraph summary of what this module is about (max 100 words).*

**Aims of courses** *2-4 aims (bullet points)*

* Aim1
* Aim2
* Aim3
* Aim4

**Learning outcomes (LO)** *This section is about what students should be able to do by the end of the module (3-5 bullet points)*

* LO1
* LO2
* LO3
* LO4
* LO5

**Teaching schedule:** *Provide an outline of what will be happening in each session. You only need to write one or two sentences for each week. Make a note of when any assignments are due.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week |  |
| 1 |  |
| 2 |  |
| 3 |  |
| 4 |  |
| 5 |  |
| 6 | *University-wide reading week (no lectures or seminars).* |
| 7 |  |
| 8 |  |
| 9 |  |
| 10 |  |
| 11 |  |
| 12 |  |
| 13 | *Last week of timetabled classes* |
| 14 | *Examinations period: Week 1* |
| 15 | *Examinations period: Week 2 (Last week any assessment can be handed in or examinations take place.*  |

Assessment *Number and types of exams, presentations, coursework assignments etc. and their percentage weighting.*

**Key Reading/ Resources** *List 4-5 items. (These could be books, articles, websites or other resources).*

**Course marketing**

Your module will be one of about 10 modules which will be available to all students, so you will need to market your module to potential students. The university will be printing postcards for each module which will be made available in locations across the university. Write 150-200 words of text for the postcard which will make your module sound attractive to students.