**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

**Unit Specification**

**1.** GENERAL INFORMATION

Title Teaching, Learning and Assessment in the Higher Education

context

Unit code EDUC66071

Credit rating 15

Level 7

Contact hours Lectures, Workshops and/or Seminars: 12 hours

Directed Reading/exercises (inc. online activities): 48 hours

Private Study: 80 hours

Other Scheduled teaching

and learning activities\*

Pre-requisite units New Academics Programme (NAP)or equivalent

Co-requisite units None

School responsible SEED

Member of staff responsible Mike O'Donoghue

ECTS\*\* 7.5

Notional hours of Learning\*\*\* 150

**2.** AIMS

Introduce different approaches to teaching to promote learning and to determine their

respective purpose, application and limitations in the higher education and local

context;

Explore the needs and experience of adult learners and andragogic approaches in the

HE and local context;

Examine the nature and purpose of assessment, attainment and student feedback;

Review institutional, Faculty and School policies on teaching, learning and assessment;

Introduce and apply reflective practice approaches to teaching and learning in the higher

education and local context.

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT

The variety of experiences that bring administrators (i.e. those who have responsibility for data

processing and recording in connection with programmes and course units), teachers (i.e. those

who lead a group of students towards one or more specific learning goals) and students

together in the HE context varies; some may have little-to-no formal introduction to teaching

and instructional practices or course administration experience to those with high levels of

experience and certification. The position of this unit considers the ways in which teachers in

the higher education context approach and execute their practice and the needs and role of

administration in supporting these. It should be noted the aim here is not to provide instruction

on the different theories of teaching and learning; rather it is to lead participants to review their

own practice and approaches, to consider how these connect with other stakeholders’ needs,

and to consider the role of assessment, feedback and support as instruments in this process.

Vicarious learning processes and critical review will be employed at appropriate points (e.g.

sessions can be examined not only in terms of content but in the way in which they are

approached and delivered).

Unit specification template 1

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

**Unit Specification**

Early sessions on how participants approach to their practice and why initiate this process;

differences in approaches are therefore highlighted in a contextual manner which will examine

relevance, attainment, and the quality of the student learning experience.

Specifically, the connection between teaching and learning is examined in the context of

didacticism and constructivism; pedagogy and andragogy; teaching, coaching and mentoring;

active learning, and problem based learning. The place of learning is also considered in respect

of the design of specific learning tasks; activities within and outside of the classroom setting;

issues in connection with online resources and supportive e-learning and e-mentoring. The

nature and purpose of lecturing is considered from both definition and practical application.

Connections with the literature in this area are provided to further stimulate individual reflection

on professional practice.

Assessment is approached from the perspectives of attainment and feedback. Participants will

be asked to review examples of their own feedback and their views on its purpose. This form of

reflection will be seeded and structured by thematic questions (e.g. How long do participants

spend on student feedback? Do attainment scores tell more about the teaching that has taken

place than student learning? What forms of feedback are available and how might they be used

to support attainment the quality of the student learning experience?).

Institutional and local policy review will be examined against the themes of discussion and

participants will be asked to question and reflect on purpose, implementation and suitability of

each. Enhancement to execution, refinement and development of policy (e.g. in respect of e-

learning or feedback practice) will be explored as a consequence.

In summary, the outcomes of this unit are:

\* The introduction of professional reflective practice suitable to the context of each participant;

\* knowledge and awareness of different teaching styles and approaches and their suitability to

context;

\* a review of the nature of student attainment and the student learning experience and the role

of feedback within these processes.

\* To inform the “Key Information Set”. Defined as ‘any activity that a student has to attend or undertake

at a fixed point and that has no flexibility for when it is undertaken, and where the student also has

access to an available staff member’ (“Provision of Information about Higher Education: Outcomes of

consultation and next steps” June 2011/18)

\*\* ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System): There are 2 UK credits for every 1 ECT

credit, in accordance with the Credit Framework (QAA). Therefore if a unit is worth 30 UK credits, this will

equate to 15 ECT.

\*\*\* Notional hours of learning: The number of hours which it is expected that a learner (at a particular

level) will spend, on average, to achieve the specified learning outcomes at that level. It is expected that

there will be 10 hours of notional study associated with every 1 credit achieved. Therefore if a unit is

worth 30 credits, this will equate to 300 notional study hours, in accordance with the Credit Framework

(QAA).

4. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Category of outcome Participants should be able to:

Knowledge and Participants will gain knowledge of different teaching theories in

understanding the HE and local context; the connection with teaching and

learning and assessment; different forms of feedback and their

respective purpose and suitability.

Unit specification template 2

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

**Unit Specification**

Intellectual skills Critical review of teaching practice; reflective practice; a

considered voice in the debate over the future of HE delivery and

its practices.

Practical skills Design / Review subject curriculum; create strategic assessment;

create specific learning and teaching goals; apply different

approaches to classroom teaching as appropriate to context and

objective; design activities which make the most of and

complement synchronous and asynchronous learning

opportunities

Transferable skills and Improved communication skills; improved presentation skills;

personal qualities improved learning resource design.

5. LEARNING AND TEACHING PROCESSES (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

Vicarious learning; e-learning as a complementary asynchronous learning opportunity; critical

review of feedback processes; in-class group work and discussion; micro-teaching examination

(e.g. good and not-so-good personal idiosyncrasies); critical review of policy and purpose.

**3.** ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT, E-ASSESSMENT, and

INFORMATION ABOUT FEEDBACK)

Assessment task Length How and when Weighting

feedback is provided within unit

(if relevant)

Participants will be asked to submit a 3,000 Within 15 working 100%

critical essay based on one or more aspects words or days of submissions

of their teaching and assessment practice. equivalent

Alternative and/or collaborative forms of

assessment are encouraged, in negotiation

with the course unit tutor.

**4.** INDICATIVE READING LIST

Bain, K. (2004) *What the best college teachers do*, Harvard University Press.

Bates, A.W. (2003) *Teaching and learning with Technology in Higher Education*, Jossey-Bass, SF.

Beard, C. and Wilson, J. (2013) *Experimental learning: A handbook for teaching, learning and*

*coaching,* Third edition, Kogan-Page.

Belenky, M., Tarule, J., Goldberger, N. and Clichy, B. (1996) *Women's Ways of Knowing: 10th*

*Anniversary Edition: The Development of Self, Voice and Mind*, Basic Books.

Bloom, B. et al. (1956). *Taxonomy of educational objectives: The classification of educational goals.*

*Handbook I: Cognitive domain*. New York, Toronto: Longmans, Green.

Bransford, J. et al. (2000) *How people learn: brain, mind, body, experience, and school*, National

Unit specification template 3

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

**Unit Specification**

Research Council

Brown, S. and Race, P. (2002) *Lecturing: a practical guide*. Kogan-Page

Cowan, J. (2006) *On becoming an innovative University teacher: reflection in action*, second edition,

OU Press.

Dearing, R. (1997) *The National Committee of Inquiry into Higher Education*, Sumary report, NCIHE,

available online at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/educol/ncihe/ Last accessed: 17-March-2014).

Dewey, J. (1938) *Experience and Education*, Pocket Books, reprint 1997.

Ford, P. et al. (1996) *Managing change in higher education: a learning environment architecture*,

Open University Press.

Freire, P. (1996) *Pedagogy of the oppressed*, second edition, Penguin Education.

Gredler, M. (2005) *Learning and instruction: theory and practice*, fifth edition, Pearson-Merill

Prentice hall.

Hobbs, V. (2007) *Faking it or hating it: can reflective practice be forced?*, Reflective Practice: Internal

and Multidisciplinary Perspectives, volume 8 issue 3 pp 405-417

Jarvis, P. (ed) *The theory and practice of teaching*, Routledge.

Laurillard, D (2001) *Rethinking University Teaching: a framework for the effective use of educational*

*technology*, second edition. Routledge

Laurillard, D. (2012) *Teaching as a Design Science: Building Pedagogical Patterns for Learning and*

*Technology,* Routledge.

*Manual of Academic Practice* (MAP), TLSO, University of Manchester. (Available online at

http://www.leeds.ac.uk/educol/ncihe/ Last accessed: 17-March-2014).

Nathan, R. (2005) *My Freshman Year: what a professor learned by becoming a student*, Penguin.

Palmer, J. (ed) (2001) *Fifty Major Thinkers on Education: from Confucius to Dewey*, Routledge

Palmer, J.(ed) (2001) *Fifty modern thinkers on education: from Piaget to the Present*, Routledge.

Palmer, P. (1997) *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life*, John

Wiley and Sons.

Pollard, A. (2002) *Readings for reflective teaching*, Continuum, London.

Pollard , A (2008) *Reflective Teaching in schools*, Bloomsbury (NB: though this is centred on school

education and teaching, the structure outlined in chapter one can be applicable to the HE context).

Rhem, J. et al. (2013) *Using Reflection and Metacognition to Improve Student Learning: Across the*

*Disciplines, Across the Academy*, Stylus Publishing.

Tight, Malcolm (2012) *Researching Higher Education.* SRHE.

*Studies in Higher Education*. (Journal) SRHE

Unit specification template 4

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

**Unit Specification**

*Teaching in Higher Education*. (Journal)

Van Nieuwerburgh. C. (2014) *An Introduction to Coaching Skill: A Practical Guide*. Sage Publishing

Warwick, P (2007) *Reflective Practice: some notes on the development of the notion of professional*

*reflection,* The Higher Education Academy (available online at

http://escalate.ac.uk/downloads/3573.pdf last accessed: 17-March 2014)

For Information and advice on Link2Lists reading list software, see:

http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/academicsupport/informationandadviceonlink2listsreadinglistsoftwar

e/

Date of current version 17-March-14

 Document control box

Policy / Procedure title: Unit Specification Template

Date approved: January 2009

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Implementation date:

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Next review date:

Related Statutes,

Ordinances, General

Regulations

Related Policies:

Related Procedures and The Manual of Academic Procedures (MAP) -

Guidance: http://www.tlso.manchester.ac.uk/map/

Policy owner: Louise Walmsley, Head of Teaching and Learning

Support Office

Lead contact: Miriam Graham, Teaching and Learning Adviser

(Policies and Procedures)

Unit specification template 5