

Institution:	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Programmes:	BSc Biology BSc Animal Science
Module:	Parasitology Conference (AGR344)
Activity:	Peer and self-assessment enhancement in parasitology
Level/Year:	3
Learning hours:	at least 100

Work-related learning outcome(s)

Discipline-related outcomes

- The students will develop knowledge about principles in parasitology and diseases that could be used at the Parasitology conference.
- Students will gain an understanding of the diversity of diagnostic tests including troubleshooting, specificity and sensitivity for identification techniques used in parasitology.

Skills-related outcomes

- The students will manage the marketing, the sponsorship and the running of the conference and this will develop professional skills such as team building, oral and written communication, practice of different communication channels, and interactions with potential employers.
- The students will be trained to be able to give feedback through peer- and self-assessment exercises.

Description of the teaching activity which achieves the learning outcome(s)

The module will be delivered using different communication methods such as computer classes, lectures and tutorials during 44 contact hours. Then the students will work individually and in teams to prepare different assignments. Different academic and non-academic speakers, and team-building with students preparing other degrees (such as Marketing) will also expose the students to different methods of teaching and staff-student or student-student interactions. The students following this module will have to practise oral and written communication in different formats, from a three-minute impromptu talk to a more structured conference presentation.

Rationale for the selection of the teaching activity

The final exam will test students' understanding of the subjects covered by lectures and web-based classes. The conference preparation will assess their individual skills for communication and organisation and how they interact as a group and with external professionals. The continuous assessment format will monitor different learning processes they experience.

Assessment – approach and detail

Semester 1 assessment (part 1: continuous assessment)

- Component 1 - students will prepare in groups their conference presentation and present a draft. Marks will be given by the Module Leader and the students themselves (0.3 module credit);
- Component 2 - students will practise for and be marked on a three-minute impromptu talk (0.3 module credit);

- Component 3 - a computer quiz will help students acquire necessary scientific knowledge before delivering the conference (0.4 module credit).

Semester 1 assessment (part 2: written exam)

A final written exam will assess the students' understanding of the scientific lectures delivered during the first semester. (4 module credits)

Semester 2 assessment (part 1: conference organisation)

Each student will take a role in the conference organisation (treasurer, press officer, programme officer etc.) and will be marked by the public attending the conference with modulating marks given by the students themselves. (2.5 module credits)

Semester 2 assessment (part 2: conference presentation)

Students will present, as a group, a parasitology-related scientific topic, marked by the conference audience with modulating marks from the students themselves. (2.5 module credits)

Future developments

Following a similar exercise organised before and using the feedback from previous students and conference participants we were able to optimise the module structure. However, the size of the student group, their scientific levels, the conference format and the topics presented could vary and therefore the module outline will be reviewed after each academic year.

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