

# Course design: introduction to the collection

*Collection 2 of 7*

## Overview

One of the points made by Elaine Showalter in her book *Teaching Literature* (Blackwell, 2003) is that 'it is not always easy to find out what our colleagues are doing behind those closed classroom doors' (p.9). As she observes, this is what tends to separate teaching from other public professions such as law or medicine; many teachers rarely discuss what they do in the classroom with colleagues teaching similar material. Recently, however, this sense of teaching as a 'privatized' profession has, as Showalter notes, been broken up, thanks in part to the increasing willingness on the part of teachers – or at least their institutions – to post programme and module resources up on the Internet. In this unit, we approach the process of module design in part by talking to colleagues about how they have successfully designed whole programmes and individual modules. By sharing their practice with us and therefore with you, the processes involved in module design are made a little more transparent. This collection provides a space for you to experiment and think creatively about ways to enhance the modules you currently teach or ones you might teach in the future. It is rare to have the opportunity to design a whole programme from scratch but nearly all of us will be involved in programme revalidations and in that context we think it is also beneficial to think about programme design too.

## Links & References

- Showalter, Elaine. *Teaching Literature*. London: Blackwell, 2003.

## Professional Standards Framework

- **Core Knowledge 2:** Appropriate methods for teaching and learning in the subject area and at the level of the academic programme



1 | This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.

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- **Professional values 3:** Commitment to the development of learning communities
- **Professional values 4:** Commitment to encouraging participation in higher education, acknowledging diversity and promoting equality of opportunity

## Individual & Group Activities

Some of the activities in this collection (the same is true of the other themed collections) are designed for individual use. Some are designed for use in groups (for example within the framework of a certificate course). In many cases the resource could be easily adapted for either. But where there is a marked difference we have indicated that a resource is primarily inflected towards either individual or group use.

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## Resources in the Course design Collection

- **Course design: introduction to the collection (\*you are here)**
- Designing an English degree programme: resource overview
  - Designing in employability: individual activity
  - Designing in employability: group activity
  - Managing transition from A Level: individual activity
  - A delicate balance: group activity
  - A delicate balance: individual activity
- Designing an innovative English Literature module: resource overview
  - Location, location, location: individual activity
  - Location, location, location: group activity
  - Questions, questions
  - Integrating research into a module: individual activity
  - Integrating research into a module: group activity
- Filling the gaps: resource overview
  - Filling the gaps between sessions: individual activity
  - Filling the gaps between sessions: group activity
- Adapting a module: resource overview
  - Adapting a Literature module: individual activity



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- Adapting a Literature module: group activity
  - Pacing it out: individual activity
  - Curriculum framing
- Mapping and applying desirable student attributes: resource overview
  - Imaginary modules: individual activity
  - Imaginary modules: group activity
- Designing a creative-critical module: resource overview
  - Thinking about modules: individual activity
  - Thinking about modules: group activity



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