

Blended learning case study: Psychology 1A and Biology 1B

University of Glasgow Psychology	olo		connect [.]	
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title expand all collapse all	info due date status	attempts remaining	instructor Jason Bohan	
Introductory Lectures				
▼ Biological Bases of Behaviour				
The Brain	08/31/13 10:00am	unlimited Psych	textbook Psychology Holt, 2nd ed.	
Learning - Classical Conditioning	08/31/13 10:00am	unlimited		
Operant Conditioning	08/31/13 10:00am	unlimited	Cmart study modulos	

Course code	1001/1002		
Title of course	Psychology 1A/B		
Course lead contact	Dr Jason Bohan		
No of credits	20		
Level of course (UG/PG) & year	UG – First year		
No. of students	600		
Platforms used	Publisher's online site: LearnSmart/Connect (McGraw Hill)		
Multimedia content Animation Video – short clip 	 Learning activities Quizzes s e.g. YouTube 		
Describe your blended learning approach	 To provide distributed learning and formative feedback throughout the first year curriculum. Weekly home-work assignments set by the lecturer (which changed on a weekly/fortnightly basis) based on their learning objectives, were made available for students to test their learning. Students were encouraged to complete online activities during the course, but quizzes also re-opened at exam time to support revision. 		

Why was this blended approach taken? i.e. what issue was it trying to solve? What advice would you give to other teachers	 To promote greater engagement with the lecture content throughout the semester, rather than students cramming for exams later, thus promoting deeper learning of the material. The final exam is 50% MCQ, and the self-tests support studnets' exam preparation. Organise all the learning activities ahead of the course, but only turn tests on when needed.
taking this approach for the first time?	 Formative tests can be re-used over subsequent years, making them efficient. If you have a textbook, you can use a bank of test questions based on this I would include questions that were in the lecture only to encourage attendance as well.
What student support needs should be taken into account? i.e. how did you support their transition into this way of learning?	 Students required little support to get going. Once tests were online, they only needed a URL.
What are the lessons for the institution and the sector from this work?	 Students really appreciate this way of learning, especially the flexibility and enjoyment from doing this. The feedback was very positive. There does need to be greater investment in terms of resources for it to be effective though. The website developed by the publishers is much more sophisticated than staff resources allow (all lectures could set a weekly mini-quiz without much additional strain); however, to do so on the scale and to the quality expected by students takes investment. Publishers provide this. If staff invest in online resources, there is additional time required to interact with online forums, maintenance etc., and institutions have to be realistic about the time investment required for this. Sometimes academics who know their subject well are asked to do this, which is not their area of expertise – institutions need to support subject areas to acquire/develop learning resources, as well as providing advice/support on how to implement these resources too.