THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

Teaching and Learning during COVID-19 Pandemic

The current global situation has disrupted the teaching and learning activities around the world. The Network of Quality, Teaching and Learning has developed resources and support structures for our faculty members and students to rapidly move to online learning. Follow this page for guidelines, workshop details and resources. Contact bdlnet@aku.edu if you have any specific questions.

Moving to Online Learning: Where do I start?

COVID-19 pandemic may have forced us to suspend on-campus classes. However, there is no reason why we cannot continue to teach and learn online. If you have never taught online, the idea of moving your class online can be daunting. By following the steps given below, you can quickly adapt your F2F course for online learning. Online learning is when you teach a course via the Internet instead of in a physical classroom. There can be:

- Synchronous online learning, i.e. in real-time through Zoom or Skype
- Asynchronous online learning, i.e. with time delay through AKU's VLE (https://vle.aku.edu)
- A blend of Synchronous and Asynchronous online learning

Through online learning, you can give lectures, facilitate class discussions, small-group collaborative activities, share learning materials, conduct quizzes, provide timely feedback, have one-to-one conversations with students, PBL sessions. Your students can submit assignments online. In short, the current technologies available at AKU can help you offer your courses online.

The first step is to decide which of the above options is suitable for your course. If you are not sure which option is right for your class, think about the following:

- *Synchronous online teaching* is usually good for teaching/learning activities when you require students to be present at the same time and place. For example, to critically examine a topic, discuss complex concepts, to give feedback. Giving lectures might not be the most ideal use of live online teaching
- *Asynchronous online teaching* is preferable when you aim to give students the flexibility to complete the tasks in their own time and pace (e.g. reading, watching a video, listening to your recorded lecture vodcast or a podcast, completing self-assessment quizzes). This type of online learning is also helpful when you want students to reflect on the new concepts and discuss them with their peers. If most of your students are not likely to have good Internet connectivity for a live online class, opt for asynchronous learning

- Blend of Asynchronous and Synchronous online teaching is relevant when your course requires both real-time and time-delayed learning.

When you have decided which option is best for your course, read the "Decisions Grid" and answer the questions. Talk to a member of the Blended and Digital Learning team or your entity's VLE Assistant about your plan.

If you do not have a course site on the VLE and would like an orientation to the VLE, join the "Virtual Learning Environment level 1" workshop.

If your course is already on the VLE (https://vle.aku.edu), go ahead and add interactive activities such as quizzes, discussion forum, games, reflective journals, Wikis, glossary and self-assessments to create an engaging class. For new ideas and help, join the "Virtual Learning Environment level 2" workshop.

Remember, just as we have to use a variety of strategies to engage students in F2F lectures, we have to use strategies to make live online teaching engaging. To learn how to make your live class via Zoom interactive and how to sustain students' interest, attend one of our upcoming workshops on "Live Online Teaching via Zoom".

Online learning may also be new to your students. So, they will need orientation and on-going support to learn effectively. Information about students' orientation will need to be placed on your course website or shared via email. All VLE assistants will be trained to offer appropriate guidance and support to the students.

Here are some resources for you to refer to as you make the transition:

- Association of College and University Educators' Online Teaching Toolkit: https://acue.org/online-teaching-toolkit/

You are not alone in this journey. Contact us:

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Join us in the upcoming workshops

Day	Date	Workshop	Karachi	EA
Wednesday	Mar-18	Live Online Teaching via Zoom	11 am - 2 pm	9 am – 12 pm
Thursday	Mar-19	Consultations		
Friday	Mar-20	Live Online Teaching via Zoom	2 pm – 5 pm	12 pm – 3 pm
Tuesday	Mar-24	Live Online Teaching via Zoom	2 pm – 5 pm	12 pm – 3 pm
Wednesday	Mar-25	Live Online Teaching via Zoom	11 am - 2 pm	9 am – 12 pm
Thursday	Mar-26	Consultations		
Friday	Mar-27	Consultations		
Monday	Mar-30	Consultations		
Tuesday	Mar-31	Live Online Teaching via Zoom	11 am - 2 pm	9 am – 12 pm
Wednesday	April 01	EdTech Lounge	3 pm to 4 pm	1 pm – 2 pm
Thursday	April 02	Live Online Teaching via Zoom	11 am - 2 pm	9 am – 12 pm
Friday	April 03	Consultations		
Monday	April 6	Using Virtual Learning Environment		
Tuesday	April 7	Live Online Teaching via Zoom	2 pm – 5 pm	12 pm – 3 pm
Wednesday	April 8	Consultations		
Wednesday	April 9	Consultations		

Send an email to bdlnet@aku.edu for details