

## STRUCTURING LEARNING MODULES

Course designers often ask how many content modules they should include in their course, and how long they should be. While there are no hard and fast rules, keep these tips in mind when organizing material into modules:

- If you only have a few pages in your learning modules, consider combining them and sub-dividing the topics.
- If you are presenting a good deal of content, divide the material up into multiple modules. One major advantage of having multiple, sequential Content Modules is that you can easily control when they are available to students.
- Although RamCT uses the term Learning Module, your naming should reflect the course organization. For instance, if your course is organized around topics, units, or chapters, use these terms instead to avoid confusing students.
- Try to use a consistent structure in all Learning Modules, but allow content, learning objectives and flow to dictate the final construction.
- Modules should be approximately the same length if possible to provide a sense of unity and continuity to the material. Consider combining or dividing modules when feasible so a similar amount of material is presented in each one.
- For longer learning modules, add headings to the module's Table of Contents to break up and organize the information.



The Astronomy course has been broken up into two Learning Modules, arranged by unit of study.

# Planning Individual Learning Modules

Once you have organized your content into modules, you'll want to plan and sequence the content within these modules. Rather than just presenting a series of web pages, divide major units or topics into smaller lessons or activities that are manageable for the learner. When creating these lessons or assignments, remember to think in 30- to 60-minute blocks of time.

An outline is an effective way to organize individual content modules. In the example below, the major headings in the module outline become headings in the table of contents page. The sub-headings represent individual pages that need to be developed and added to the Content Module. The sub-headings also mirror the title of the web pages.

## **Week 6 Outline**

- I. Week 6: Perfect Tense
  - A. The Week 6 Plan
  - B. Learning Goals
- II. Exercises and Assignments
  - A. From the Beaches of Mexico to Being in Love
  - B. Special Assignments and Discussions for Week 6
  - C. Chapter 3 Textbook Answers
  - D. Grammar on the Web – Perfect Tense Verbs
- III. Quiz for Week 6
  - A. Perfect Tense Quiz
- IV. Journal for Week 6
  - A. Reflection/Journal: Week 6



