Module Specification

Sustainable Development: Principles and Practice

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 15 Jun 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Sustainable Development: Principles and Practice

Module code: UBGMF9-15-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Environment & Technology

Department: FET Dept of Geography & Envrnmental Mgmt

Partner institutions: None

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: If the module is offered as CPD or stand alone, indicate the entry requirements

Educational aims: This module explores the fundamental nature, causes and consequences of sustainable and unsustainable development. It will also introduce some of the key frameworks that have been used to explain and implement the

concept of sustainable development. A range of different theoretical approaches to understanding the relationship between human society and the natural environment will be examined, and as part of this the interrelationship between environmental sustainability and human health and well-being will be explored.

Outline syllabus: Key elements of the syllabus will be explored through both case studies of attempts to implement sustainable development in a range of contexts as well as through practical exercises and projects that give students firsthand experience of putting key concepts, frameworks and tools into practice.

Indicative topics include:

The problem of unsustainable development, including key global environmental and socioeconomic issues such as resource scarcity, "affluenza" and inequalities.

History and concepts of sustainable development.

Frameworks for implementing sustainable development.

Tools for sustainable design in a range of contexts including place making, policy, products and public services.

Different theoretical and conceptual frameworks for explaining the relationship between human society and the natural environment and their philosophical and ethical underpinnings.

The interrelationship between environmental sustainability and human health and well-being.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will be delivered by a combination of intensive workshops/seminars and online resources and facilitated discussion. The classroom sessions are designed to actively support the development of independent learning strategies by the students. The sessions combine formal lectures with a wide range of participative activities including case studies, problem solving activities and group discussion. The sessions also require a significant amount of advance preparation by the students.

Students are encouraged to relate the knowledge and skills gained through the course to the working environment in a creative way and to be solution-focused in addressing current issues in the implementation of sustainable development. The independent study includes both preparatory reading for class sessions as well as reading that expands and deepens knowledge obtained through the class sessions.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the nature, causes and consequences of sustainable and unsustainable development and the ability to communicate effectively in written and verbal form about these issues

MO2 Explain and critique some of the key definitions and frameworks that are used to explain and implement the concept of sustainable development, and demonstrate an ability to utilise them in response to real-world challenges

MO3 Explain and critique theories that attempt to explain the relationship between human beings and the natural environment and to demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationship between environmental sustainability and human health and wellbeing

MO4 Critique and apply commonly used methodologies and tools, for integrating sustainability in a range of contexts, for example, places, policy, products and service delivery

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmf9-15-m.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Written assignment (Pass / Fail Task) - The assessment will centre on a project to produce a design framework for embedding sustainability into a given subject such as a product, service, utility, place or policy. This will enable students to bring their sustainable development knowledge, critical faculties, and planning and implementation abilities to bear upon a real sustainability challenge. The supervised nature of the project means that topics will be negotiated and agreed with tutors, and students will have opportunities for formative feedback on the appropriateness of the topic and the direction in which they intend to take their project.

The module mark is derived from an individual presentation (10 mins) of the written work followed by questions from the assessor.

Resit written assignment - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)
Description: Individual presentation (10 mins) of written work followed by questions from assessor.
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: This is a Pass/Fail written assignment (max 2000 words).

Weighting:

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Individual presentation (10 mins) of written work followed by questions from assessor.

The presentation is timetabled but run online.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: This is a Pass/Fail written assignment (max 2000 words).

Weighting:

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Sustainable Development in Practice [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Sustainable Development in Practice [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Environmental Management [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Environmental Management [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

Project Management [Frenchay] MSc 2022-23