



Module Specification

Environment and Society

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Environment and Society

Module code: USSKAB-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

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: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: This module examines how environmental problems and their solutions (Sustainable Development) relate to social, political and economic imperatives. Specifically this module will introduce the following:

Global Environmental Challenges

The history of the human planet. Human population growth. Climate Change. The energy crisis. Ocean challenges. Land Use Change and biodiversity loss. Pollution and waste. Food and farming.

Sustainable Development

What is Sustainable Development? The meaning of the 'three pillars of Sustainable Development' – economic development, social development and environmental protection. Introduction of Sustainable Development models, The Natural Step, Twelve Capitals, and the triple Bottom Line.

Society

Different cultural and religious perspectives on environment. Historical growth of environmentalism and impact on global societies, economies and politics. Introduction to political ecology. Shaping the agenda and roles of pressure groups and industry at local and national level.

Economics

Introduction to current economic discourse, including concepts such as opportunity costs, entropic scarcity, flow-fund resource matrix, supply and demand social costs and public goods, and approaches to solving environmental problems, such as taxes, tradable permits, tort law, and environmental safety standards.

Policy Making and Implementation

Legislative framework for policy making: Parliament, local authorities, the European Union. The Governmental institutions involved in the implementation of Sustainable Development initiatives (government departments, local authorities, Environment Agency). Global policy frameworks – World Summit on Sustainable Development outputs, Millennium Development Goals and UN Conventions on Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity. Scientific controversies – Climate Change, Mining Development and GM case studies.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be employed. The module will be delivered using online lectures, online videos/resources and online tutorials. Lectures will be used to introduce main concepts and to guide and inform student centred learning while tutorials and workshops will provide students the opportunity to discuss and apply issues in-depth. Student learning will be supported mainly through the University's E-Learning Environment, Blackboard. videos and 'interactive' material will be provided to engage students further. A culture of continuous learning will be developed through the implementation of regular on-line discussion groups which discuss identified topics in-depth. All sessions will be used to inform and provoke the process of critical thinking and awareness required for levels 2 and 3.

The module places considerable emphasis on recognising and using subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts and principles. The module will introduce the idea of analysing, synthesising and summarising information critically, including prior research. Learning methods include the application of knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems.

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

- MO1** Demonstrate a basic understanding of policy making for Sustainable Development at a National, European and International level
- MO2** Discuss the theoretical concept of Sustainable Development with particular reference to economic development, social development and environmental protection
- MO3** Describe the political and economic context of environmental policy making with respect to Sustainable Development
- MO4** Understand how environmental problems and their solutions relate to political and economic imperatives in relation to Sustainable Development

MO5 Discuss the need for, and barriers to, an interdisciplinary approach to the analysis of environmental problems with particular reference to their social and economic dimensions

MO6 Apply the above economic, social and environmental concepts and methods from the discourse of Sustainable Development in real-world case studies within the context of workshops

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskab-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/usskab-30-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessments are designed to underpin students' learning and skills acquisition in the module and to provide for learning beyond the material delivered in the classroom. Assessments includes both summative (assessment that contributes to module mark) and formative (assessment that does not contribute to module mark) assessment and feedback opportunities.

Assessment 1 is a reflective report on the student's interpretation of the industrial worldview which requires students to assess the different methods used by companies and, based in part on their direct experiences as consumers, develop their own beliefs, priorities and planned actions towards benefitting society (1500 words).

Assessment 2 is a case study of the GEO-5 Report and its 'Response Options' to the

current state of the environment. In 1000 words students discuss these response options. In a further 500 words the students assess the responses to 'Earth System Challenges'.

Assessment 3 is a 24-hour online exam which takes place at the end of the year. The paper is equivalent to a 2 hour exam, designed to test both the breadth of the students' subject knowledge and their understanding of key concepts.

Opportunities for formative assessment are embedded in the module teaching and take a variety of forms, including: in class and on-line tests and quizzes, problem-solving workshops, and model answers for past exam questions.

Assessment tasks:

Report (First Sit)

Description: 1500 word reflective report

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5, MO6

Case Study (First Sit)

Description: 1500 word case study response

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5, MO6

Examination (Online) (First Sit)

Description: Online examination (24 hours)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Report (Resit)

Description: 1500 word reflective report

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5, MO6

Case Study (Resit)

Description: 1500 word case study response

Weighting: 30 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5, MO6

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Online examination (24 hours)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Environmental Science [Frenchay] MSci 2023-24

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] MSci 2022-23

Environmental Science {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23