



Module Specification

Living Earth

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Living Earth

Module code: UBGMQ8-15-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: Faculty of Environment & Technology

School: FET Dept of Geography & Environmental 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: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: Origin and evolution of life: Proterozoic, cyanobacteria, oxygenisation of atmosphere.

Oldest fossils, Cambrian explosion, cladograms.

Phylogeny of animals, body plans, evolution theories.

Predators, food webs, substrates, niche diversity, radiations.

Mass extinctions.

Palaeozoic diversification, vertebrates, fish.

Invasion of land, terrestrial ecosystems, rise of vertebrates on land.

Permo-Triassic rise of reptiles, amphibians, dinosaurs, flight.

Rise of mammals, K-T extinction.

Evolution of vegetation, impact on sedimentary systems.

Humans.

Trace fossils, evolution of animal behaviour.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Students will receive, on average, 3 hours' contact time per week during one semester. This will be predominantly in the form of keynote lectures, followed by related practical laboratory sessions. The practical sessions will be introduced by a demonstration. There will be short local field excursions to examine fossils in the field. One-to-one support will be provided during field and practical sessions and via email.

Scheduled learning on this module includes lectures, demonstrations field and practical classes. Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential

reading, completion of practical work, assignment preparation and completion.

These sessions constitute an average time.

Contact time (lectures and laboratory sessions): 36 hours

Assimilation, development of knowledge and independent reading: 74 hours

Exam preparation: 20 hours

Coursework preparation: 20 hours

Total study time: 150 hours

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

MO1 Understand the processes that led to the habitable planet Earth

MO2 Explain theories of evolution and give examples from the record of life on Earth

MO3 Recognise examples of the main groups of fossils

MO4 Demonstrate links between physical features of animals and plants (functional morphology) and their environment

MO5 Interpret impacts of environmental change on life on Earth

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](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmq8-15-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmq8-15-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Summative assessment:

Assessment Task 1:

Examination (2 hours). Learning outcomes 1-4.

This will be a practical examination which will have a similar format to practical exercises the students have carried out during the module.

Students will be assessed on their ability to identify fossils and explain their occurrence in the geological record of life on Earth.

Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of evolution theories and the relationship between animals and plants and their environment.

Assessment Task 2 - Essay (1500 words). Learning outcomes 1, 2, 4,5.

The essay will give the students an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of evolution theories in relation to particular groups of animals or plants.

Students will be able to show that they can articulate how distributions of animals and plants might be affected by environmental changes.

The essay will give students an opportunity to develop writing and literacy skills and demonstrate engagement with academic literature.

Assessment Task 3 - Library exercise.

This exercise is organised by the library to familiarise the students with resources available and how to access them.

It is assessed in relation to accuracy and completeness.

Formative work:

Formative work will be set weekly during practical sessions for students' self assessment. Students will receive preparation exercises for the summative assessment that may include a mock exam.

Assessment tasks:**Examination** (First Sit)

Description: Practical examination (2 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Essay (1500 words)

Weighting: 38 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO5

Set Exercise (First Sit)

Description: Assessment Task 3: Library exercise

Weighting: 12 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Examination (Resit)

Description: Practical examination (2 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Essay (2000 words)

Weighting: 38 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Set Exercise (Resit)

Description: Assessment Task 3: Library exercise

Weighting: 12 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: