



Module Specification

Contemporary Business Issues

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 18 Jul 2023

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Contemporary Business Issues

Module code: UMPDN6-15-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Business & Law

Department: FBL Dept of Business & Management

Partner institutions: None

Field: Human Resource Management

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: Accounting and Finance in Society 2023-24

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: In exploring the impact of contemporary business issues on organisations and worker from a political economy perspective, the module will address the following topics utilising these as an opportunity for students to engage in enquiry and develop a range of academic and research skills. This module provides students the opportunity to explore the contested role of Business in Society.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module's underlying goal is to help students recognise that the study of 'business' goes far beyond a functional focus on the mechanisms of business, it is the study of contemporary society and political economy, and the role of business within this.

The module aims to support students in recognising that the role of business in increasingly global and international businesses requires the delivery of goods and services and of course the creation of wealth – but leadership also requires clear responsibility towards people and the societies in which the company operates and stewardship of the natural resources on which it relies. The role of business in society is not only a legitimate aspect of business management, but increasingly central in ensuring growth, profitability and sustainable business building. This challenge extends across a range of issues which fall under the umbrella of 'Corporate Social Responsibility or Sustainability' but includes much of the topic areas the module allows students to research; the use of zero-hours contracts, gender discrimination; the exclusion of disabled workers; the impact of new technology on workplace discrimination.

Outline syllabus: Contemporary work themes include (but may be adapted to reflect recent economic and business changes):

Internationalisation and Globalisation and the impact on work: e.g. immigration, trade liberalisation vs. introduction of trade barriers

The socio-political context of work and the impact of Government policy: e.g. Neoliberalism and free-markets and the experience of work

Inequality in Organisations and Managing Diversity in Organisations

Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Ethics

New forms of Work e.g. Flexibility and Flexploitation, Emotional and Aesthetic Labour

Emerging forms of Employment and Entrepreneurship: e.g. self-employment, zero-hour contracts, the hidden/ shadow economy

New Technology, Social Media and the experience of work

Research skills:

Identifying and defining suitable topics of critical enquiry relevant to a student's chosen discipline

Use of library resources and a range of different types of source

Designing and presenting research posters

In addition, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally assess the following:

Time management skills

Resource identification and management skills

Effective communication using written and verbal media

Independent and interdependent (group) working

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Module delivery will be based on 3 hours of scheduled learning and teaching activities per teaching week over 12 weeks. This will consist of:

A 1 hour lecture

A 2 hour workshop

Extensive use will be made of Blackboard for guided independent study work; to support students' learning; to facilitate interactions between students e.g. for group project work, and as a repository for students' own work thereby promoting a sense of learning community. Students will also be directed towards the University Library online Study Skills resources for the development of skills appropriate to the level and style of the module. In addition a number of e-learning resources will also be used, including:

The MySkills Study Skills website

Skills4study (s4s) as part of the MySkills resource (Academic reading and note making; Critical thinking; Academic writing; Referencing and plagiarism)

iSkillzone

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

MO1 Critically evaluate the impact of various contemporary business issues on businesses and their employees

MO2 Place individual topics of study within the broader context of business management research

MO3 Engage in researching topics and developing perspectives and synoptic accounts

MO4 Understand the existence of a series of continuing debates with which students will become familiar

MO5 Have started to develop critical thinking skills - constructively critiquing the research of others, identifying strengths and weaknesses in technique, analysis and conclusions

MO6 Be able to produce different types of written and oral work appropriate to the programme of study and observing the conventions of academic writing

MO7 Further develop and demonstrate skills in note-taking, summarising, paraphrasing and referencing

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/umpdn6-15-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/umpdn6-15-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy adopted on this module is designed to assess students' understanding of contemporary work and its impact on workers and organisations, as well as their ability to define their own scope of enquiry into a relevant business issue. Opportunities for interim feedback are built into module delivery through ongoing submission of portfolio exercises. Formative feedback on both the portfolio and presentation will be provided by tutors during dedicated workshop time.

There are two summative assessment tasks for this module:

Task 1: A 20 minute group research poster presentation based on work completed in workshops and during independent study time. Students will base their presentation on one of the contemporary work themes and will develop their own account of the existing literature, synthesizing a wide range of sources.

Task 2: A 1500 word individual portfolio made up of four exercises that are linked to lecture content where students must demonstrate the development of research skills.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Group Presentation of a Research Poster (20 min)

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Individual portfolio of enquiry-based activities (1500 words max.)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Presentation and poster

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5, MO6

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Individual portfolio of enquiry-based activities (1500 words max.)

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Business and Management [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Business and Management [Villa] BA (Hons) 2023-24
International Business Management [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24
International Business Management {Split Delivery} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24
International Business [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24
Business and Human Resource Management [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24
Business and Human Resource Management [Villa] BA (Hons) 2023-24
Business Management and Leadership [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24
Business and Management [NepalBrit] BBA (Hons) 2023-24
Business and Law [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24
Law with Business [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2023-24
International Business {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23
Business and Management {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23
Business Management and Leadership {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23
Law with Business {Foundation} [Frenchay] LLB (Hons) 2022-23
Business and Law {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23
Business and Human Resource Management {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons)
2022-23