Module Specification

Sustainable Futures: Environment and Society in an Age of Crisis

Version: 2023-24, v4.0, 11 Jul 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Sustainable Futures: Environment and Society in an Age of Crisis

Module code: UZSY6W-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Sociology and Criminology

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: Whilst the precise nature and implications of the ecological crisis are yet to be fully determined, there can be no doubt that we do in fact face a global ecological crisis. From the United Nations to local councils, from protest groups to consumers, an emerging sense of urgency, even emergency, is establishing itself. Though climate
change appears the most pressing of environmental challenges, pollution, waste, bio-diversity loss and resource depletion are all advancing to a point of outright

unsustainability. It is also the case that this crisis is brought about by human action. It is essentially a consequence of modernisation, and in particular the industrialisation that has accompanied it, allied to an international political system that reinforces competition between countries rather than cooperation.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module explores the causes, nature, forms and consequences of ecological crisis, with particular regard to the relationship between the environment and society. It will examine the implications of ecological crisis for our everyday lives, and for society more generally, and will explore what might (and might not) be done to bring about positive change in the interests of sustainability. The module will pay particular attention to the role that cities play in both the problem of, and solution to, ecological crisis

Outline syllabus: Indicative Content

Critical Engagements with the 'Unsustainable':
Re-Thinking Nature, Re-Thinking Society
The Problem of Anthropocentrism
Theorising and Conceptualising Sustainability
The Challenge of High Carbon Societies
Climate Change
Energy
Pollution and Waste
Resource Depletion
Mobilities and Transportation
Bio-diversity loss and the food crisis

Case Studies in Sustainable Futures:
Governance and the Environment
Green Politics and Protest
Environmental Justice
Sustainable Cities
The cultures and practices of Sustainability
Tackling Climate Change

Tacking Pollution and Waste

Sustainable transport

Food sustainability in the city

Sustainable Consumption

Recycling, up-cycling, and re-making

Craft production and consumption for sustainability

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module offers a range of real-world case studies to develop students' critical understandings, culminating in the exploration of sustainability-related interventions in the city-region of Bristol (Europe's first awarded Green City). In this way, this module is aligned to meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and contributes to the city-region's Our Future plan for sustainability .

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

MO1 Critically evaluate theoretical and conceptual approaches to understanding sustainability

MO2 Apply theoretical and conceptual understandings of sustainability to a range of ecologically-related aspects of contemporary society, and from the global to the local

MO3 Identify and analyse the multiple ways in which the forces of unsustainability impact on cities and urban life

MO4 Examine and critically account for a range of empirically-rich case study examples (set in the city-region of Bristol) of how active citizens construct enterprising but sustainable lives, practices and spaces in the context of contemporary cities

MO5 Effectively communicate, across a range of assessment types, an applied but critical understanding of sustainability

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 via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsy6w-30-3.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Summative Assessment:
1. 2000 word report focussing on a selected field of 'unsustainability'
2. 2500 word case study analysis on a selected field of sustainability-related practice located in the city-region of Bristol.

The summative assessment for this module consists of two tasks: a 2000 word report focussing on a selected field of 'unsustainability', and a 2500-word case study analysis of a selected field of sustainability-related practice from the city-region of Bristol. The assessment strategy has been designed to enable students to meet the learning outcomes of the module, which include both subject-specific knowledge and skills, and also transferable skills directly aligned to UWE's Strategy on producing Ready and Able Graduates. By requiring students to ground their case study report on an engagement with a real world, enterprising, intervention in the city-region of Bristol, the module directly supports UWE's mission of offering critically-informed and engaged learning for the real world. The module's learning outcomes and assessment strategy support the programme's fulfilment of the relevant QAA benchmarks and have been designed to take account of the level descriptors pertinent to a third year optional module.

Formative Assessment:

Students will have the opportunity to discuss plans of their summative assessments with the module leader within the context of the tutorials, and will receive ongoing formative input in the context of group-work, presentation and discussion within the seminar.

Assessment tasks:

Report (First Sit)

Description: 2000 word report focussing on a selected field of 'unsustainability'

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

Case Study (First Sit)

Description: 2000 word case study analysis on a selected field of sustainability-related practice located in the city-region of Bristol

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO5

Report (Resit)

Description: 2000 word report focussing on a selected field of 'unsustainability'

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO5

Case Study (Resit)

Description: 2000 word case study analysis on a selected field of sustainability-related practice located in the city-region of Bristol

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Sociology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology with Sociology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology with Criminology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Sociology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology with Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology with Criminology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2019-20

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Criminology with Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Sociology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Criminology with Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19