



Module Specification

Contemporary Global Issues

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Contemporary Global Issues

Module code: UBGLXU-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Architecture and Environment

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: This module explores the theories behind globalisation, the different forms it takes, and the multiple challenges it presents in relation to cities, economic change, global development, and the management of global resources, sustainability, and the environment. Students will examine how global processes shape local experiences and will be encouraged to think critically about the uneven impacts of globalisation across different contexts. Alongside developing subject knowledge, students will also build their academic skills in critical reading, analysis,

and writing, enabling them to engage more deeply with contemporary debates in global studies.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The aim of this module is to provide students with a critical understanding of globalisation as a complex and contested process shaping contemporary social, economic, cultural, political, and environmental change. Students will explore key theories of globalisation and assess how global flows of capital, people, goods, culture, and ideas influence cities, development, security, health, and sustainability across different scales. Through case studies and thematic investigations, students will evaluate the uneven impacts of globalisation and consider both its benefits and its challenges—ranging from cultural homogenisation and global inequality to environmental degradation and public health crises.

In addition to developing subject knowledge, the module supports students in building core academic skills, particularly in critical reading, analysis, and academic writing. Opportunities will also be provided for collaborative learning and structured debate, helping students to articulate and defend informed viewpoints. The module contributes to broader programme themes related to global development, sustainability, and spatial justice, and prepares students for more advanced engagement with global issues in later stages of their degree.

Outline syllabus: Topics are likely to include, but not limited to:

Part 1: Global development and security

The rise of globalisation, theories and practices of globalisation, and globalisation and the city

Economic globalisation (e.g. global finance; multi-national corporations; global services; global telecommunications; global mobility and migration; global tourism and travel)

Cultural globalisation (e.g. re-territorialisation of culture; English as a global language; identity; culture; ethnicities; cultural economics; homogenisation; cultural erosion; commodification; representing and reimagining places)

Political globalisation (e.g. supranational organisations; the market versus the nation

state; immigration)

Part 2: Transport and health

Environmental globalisation (e.g. global environmental change and responses)

Global health and pandemics

Global inequality and development

Global transport systems and sustainability

Global tourism and mobility

Overview of the positives and negatives of globalisation

Alternatives to globalisation: the fight against the global

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module uses interactive lectorials to introduce and explore key ideas related to globalisation, supported by guided writing development workshops. The teaching and learning methods aim to enhance the key skills of critical analysis of a variety of sources, reading widely, and academic writing and presentation skills.

There will be a series of content sessions for each topic, which will allow the students to engage with the content, and give an opportunity for self-directed critical reading outside of the lecture sessions. After the series of content lectorials, delivery will switch to assessment writing support for the particular topic/assignment. These sessions will be structured to lead the students through the academic writing process. Students will have support from the School Library team as a part of the teaching.

Students will be expected to complete weekly readings and/or other activities as relevant to the lecture content.

Scheduled learning comprises a combination of interactive lectures and tutorials.

Independent learning comprises hours engaged with essential reading, completion of

activities, and assignment preparation and completion.

On average, 3 hours contact each week of the academic year will be allocated. In addition to the formal classes, students will be set key reading each week to complete for the following session.

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

MO1 “Explain the rise and key dimensions of globalisation - economic, cultural, and political - while developing academic reading, analytical, and written communication skills to evaluate how these processes shape cities, mobility, and identity at different geographical scales.”

MO2 Evaluate how globalisation influences geopolitical and security issues, and reflect critically on the contested impacts of these processes. Apply appropriate academic conventions in terms of style, tone, and referencing in written work.

MO3 Analyse the environmental and health-related challenges of globalisation - including global environmental change, pandemics, and sustainable transport - using relevant examples, and communicate findings effectively through clear academic writing and visual presentation.

MO4 Assess global inequalities and the varied responses to globalisation, including critiques and alternatives, and examine the social and spatial implications of these trends. Demonstrate the ability to synthesise information through critical reading, writing, and discussion.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/4A4F9978-4E85-BCC3-FC25-0A4389549141.html) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/4A4F9978-4E85-BCC3-FC25-0A4389549141.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The Assessment:

Written assignment 1 (2,000 words). A portfolio of two written pieces, each focussing on one of the two topics in Term 1. Students will be free to choose a topic from a short list of set topics, with either a human and physical geography focus.

Written assignment 2 (2,000 words). A portfolio of two written pieces, each focussing on one of the two topics in Term 2. Students will be free to choose a topic from a short list of set topics, with either a human and physical geography focus.

The resit strategy is the same as the first sit.

Formative assessment and feedback for both assignments is provided through in-class workshop activities.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written assignment 1 (2,000 words). A portfolio of two written pieces.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written assignment 2 (2,000 words). A portfolio of two written pieces.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Resit written assignment 1 (2,000 words). A portfolio of two written pieces.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Resit written assignment 2 (2,000 words). A portfolio of two written pieces.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Geography [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2026-27

Geography [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27

Geography [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2026-27

Geography [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2026-27