



Module Specification

Environment and Behaviour

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Environment and Behaviour

Module code: UBGMXJ-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2025-26

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 follows and develops the longitudinal social science strand of study through the programme building from 2 previous modules years 1 and 2. This module focuses on people's values, attitudes and behaviours and on hopeful futures. It is a core module of the programme that allows further cohort bonding and interventions.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: An understanding of how human factors affect the environment is crucial if we are to influence and change people's behaviour and attitudes towards its stewardship. Those that will (eventually) work in environmental organisations will benefit from an understanding of the similarities and differences of the people that they work with both within and outside their organisation, as such this module focuses on human behaviour and its' relationship with the environment.

Outline syllabus: Students will consider the very earliest developmental issues in the formation of values and attitudes that begin in childhood and develop over time. We will consider how and when attitudes and values develop and what their main influencers are. The module will introduce the area of environmental education and examine different approaches and influences to considering the importance, inclusion and effectiveness of sustainable education. The module will focus on when and how values and attitudes can be adapted and changed with consideration of the latest theoretical developments (for example; Theory of Planned Behaviour/ Com-B model), leading to sustainable changes in behaviour. This will lead us to consider ambivalence, denial and dissociation leading to non-engagement and non-action within the environmental field.

With a focus on changing attitudes and consequently behaviours we will consider how individual and societal changes influence how we behave against different political and cultural backdrops. We will consider subjects like activism and different engagement and communications techniques and strategies.

With a focus on encouraging pro-environmental behaviour we will consider how effective different approaches are using case studies and research findings. Theories of behaviour change will be applied to different examples in analysing effectiveness.

We will then take a deep look at hope and future visioning considering policy, responsibility and education for sustainable development.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: An important part of this module and its' assessment is developing the student's autonomy in their learning and so students are encouraged to choose a reading area to focus on alongside the module contact sessions. Students will access literature and evaluate research papers from pre-selected academic journals (e.g. Environment and Behaviour and/ or Environmental Psychology). Each week the contact sessions begin with guided discussions where students share the content of a paper that they have chosen and read during the week. As such the students build up their own personal 'library' of academic papers, and get to hear about what their peers are reading. Interactive learning approaches like this are used throughout this module.

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

MO1 Critically evaluate relevant theories and research approaches to understanding the relationship between human behaviour and the environment.

MO2 Examine sustainable attitude and behaviour change strategies and consider their merits and problems with attention to academic research and examples.

MO3 Explain how human attitudes and values develop and the factors that affect the strength of their formation, and how these influence environmental behaviour and consider the implication for Environmental Education.

MO4 Practise autonomy in searching and reading academic literature, dissecting and sharing this with peers and using it to inform research design.

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://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmxi-30-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmxi-30-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The module will be assessed by two components, Components A (50%) and B (50%)

A: Poster and presentation detailing a behaviour change intervention.

B Portfolio - Students will exercise autonomy by selecting their own subject of focus from four available areas. They will develop a reflective and iterative portfolio, with three key check-in points:

First Check-In: Students will demonstrate reading and critical engagement with their chosen topic through a 5-minute interview.

Second Check-In: Progress and practical elements of the project will be assessed during a 10-minute presentation.

Final Submission: Students will submit evidence of their work showing where key thinking and decisions have been made along with a 1,000-word written piece completed within a dedicated writing day.

Resit Presentation - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

Resit Portfolio - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Class exercise portfolio (1000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Poster Presentation (10 minutes)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Class exercise portfolio (equivalent of 2000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Presentation (10 mins)

Weighting: 50 %

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 Management [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2023-24

Environmental Management {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] - Withdrawn
BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Environmental Management {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] - Withdrawn
BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Environmental Management [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Environmental Management {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc
(Hons) 2021-22

Environmental Management {Apprenticeship-UWE} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc
(Hons) 2021-22