



## **Module Specification**

### **Comparing Cultures**

Version: 2026-27, v3.0, Approved

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Comparing Cultures

**Module code:** UZSSLH-30-1

**Level:** Level 4

**For implementation from:** 2026-27

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**College:** College of Health, Science & Society

**School:** CHSS School 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:** This module introduces students to a range of pre-modern and non-modern societal structures, customs and practices. It introduces a comparative approach able to highlight both differences and similarities across different societies that will expand knowledge and understanding not only of social arrangements that may differ from our own, but may also help to question our own taken for granted assumptions about our own society and the impacts of relations between Western and non-Western societies over time.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module aims to broaden student understanding of the range and varieties of possible social arrangements across time and space, including historical comparison and comparison across the world in contemporary times.

**Outline syllabus:** The module will be based around 4 major inter-related blocks:

Block 1: Comparative Society I - Modernisation and Difference: this examines the rise of modernity and the crises presented by modernisation as set against the backdrop of industrialisation, urbanisation and encounters with the colonial other.

Block 2: Representing The Other : this is a methodological block with an emphasis on (visual) representation of The Other.

Block 3: Understanding Non-Modern Cultures: this explores features of non-modern cultures of comparative importance.

Block 4: Comparative Sociology II - Contemporary Cultures: this updates West v non-West relations by examining changes in contemporary Western culture.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** Teaching will be by 2 hour lectorial slot where lectures will be supplemented by opportunities for interactive learning, one-on-one and group tutorials, plus a one hour seminar partly used to facilitate group-work/cohort identity. In addition independent learning will be expected and facilitated through seminars and lectorial sessions.

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

**MO1** Understand the aims, objectives and practices of Comparative Sociology

**MO2** Understand the range of non-modern societies and their relationship to contemporary Western culture

**MO3** Understand how non-modern societies are/were structured, are/were viable and represented

**MO4** Understand how these societies change over time with reference to their relationship with the West

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Staff-guided learning = 72 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** This module has two summative assessments which are designed to feed into the school's strategy around virtual learning and the subject group's desire to reinforce cohort identity and introduce practical research skills and innovations on visual and aural culture into teaching, learning and assessment.

**Assessment Task 1: Presentation (7 minutes maximum)**

Students will be allocated into 'research teams' and will present as a group, in-class under controlled conditions. formative feedback is provided before and after the presentation, including an element of peer feedback, before group marks and formal assessment feedback is provided.

**Assessment Task 2: Written Assignment (2000 words maximum)** Students will be asked to create an illustrated auto-ethnography about a day in their lives or a particular event, rooted in Bristol life (as part of the subject groups ethic around localisation and community engagement) as a way of understanding sociologically the strange-ness and idiosyncratic nature of contemporary Western culture.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Presentation (First Sit)**

Description: Group Presentation (7 minutes maximum)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: 2000 word written assignment

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: 2000 word written assignment

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Presentation (Resit)**

Description: Group Presentation (7 minutes maximum)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: Yes

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2026-27

Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26

Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2026-27

Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26