



## MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Ecology		
Module Code	UBGMH3-15-2	Level	Level 5
For implementation from	2019-20		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	Faculty of Environment & Technology	Field	Geography and Environmental Management
Department	FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p><b>Features:</b> Module Entry requirements: 60 credits at level 1</p> <p><b>Educational Aims:</b> See Learning Outcomes</p> <p>In addition to the Learning Outcomes, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally assess the following:</p> <p>Skills in self-management</p> <p>Small group negotiation and problem-solving</p> <p><b>Outline Syllabus:</b> The aim of this module is to provide students with the opportunity to study ecological principles and to begin to appreciate how these may be applied to problems in conservation biology. The module lays the ecological foundations for level 3 studies of biogeography and habitat conservation.</p> <p>Organisms do not live in isolation and are constantly interacting with, influencing and reacting to their environment. This module will develop a basic understanding of the fundamental ideas and concepts that have been used to understand these interactions. The module will explore these</p>

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aspects at different levels ranging from a focus on the individual up to communities and ecosystems.

Themes include:

1. Vegetation succession: origins of theory, development of key models, nature of climax communities, application to nature conservation.
2. Community organisation: food chains/webs, species abundance relations, guild, keystone species, competition, predation, environmental gradients and tolerance, disturbance.
3. Factors affecting species distribution: biotic and abiotic interactions, human impacts.
4. Examination of major ecosystems of Britain/north-west Europe (wetlands): origin and development, present day structure and functioning, threats and management.
5. Quantitative and qualitative methods of site investigation: techniques for sampling, surveying, monitoring and analysing vegetation communities

**Teaching and Learning Methods:** Scheduled learning on this module will include interactive lectures (supported by the module website), which will be used to introduce fundamental principles of ecology.

Seminars and fieldwork sessions will aid knowledge and skills development, and offer the opportunity to develop critical thinking. Through the supported activities and discussions, learners will build upon the fundamental concepts covered in the lectures and begin to apply their understanding. A revision session will enable students to understand what is required of them in the assessed coursework and to be given more general advice on essay writing.

Independent learning will include time engaged with essential reading, undertaking tutor-guided formative exercises that are integral to the course programme, and coursework preparation, reflexive self-assessment and completion.

Students will receive, on average, 3 hours of contact each week in the form of lectures, seminars and fieldwork. In addition to the formal classes, students will be set key reading and/or activities each week to complete for the following session.

The amount of time spent on activities in this module is shown below:

Activity (Hours)  
Contact time (36)  
Assimilation and development of knowledge (65)  
Coursework preparation (49)  
Total study time (150)

### Part 3: Assessment

Assessment in this module is embedded firmly in a strategy of assessment for learning. As such, there is sequential and discursive development of an essay by students in which they are guided by staff through i) production of an essay plan and ii) compulsory dialogic discussion with staff of a comprehensive essay draft. This process links formative and summative assessment support and ensures that the production of each essay is 'controlled' in that it can be verified as the student's own work, guided by tutors and enhanced through self-assessment. The submitted summative components are thereby a draft essay self-assessment form (component A) and a final essay (component B).

Summative Assessment

Component A – Essay draft self-assessment. Learning outcome 7

- Students will submit a 500 word self-assessment of a full draft of their component B essay after compulsory dialogic discussion with the tutor. They will assess their work against the departmental marking criteria, adhering

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to a template provided by the tutor.

- The discursively supported self-assessment will be tutor-assessed according to the following criteria:

1. Level of critical insight offered by the student in the face-to-face feedforward session.
2. Questions asked of the tutor during face-to-face feedforward session to enhance the draft essay.
3. Self-identification of draft essay strengths.
4. Self-identification of draft essay weaknesses.
5. Action plan to improve the essay for final submission.

Component B – Individual essay of 2,500 words. Learning outcomes 1-6

Students will answer one from six essay questions included in the module guide (guided through a formative essay plan (see below) and the component A summative essay draft self-assessment).

Answers will be tutor-assessed according to the following departmental marking criteria:

1. Relevance of the content of the answer to the question set.
2. Structure and organisation.
3. Grounding in literature and use of supporting material.
4. Clarity, coherence and depth of argument.
5. Standards of literacy and presentation.

Formative Assessment

1. Practical exercises in seminars developing the application of lecture material in the context of the coursework essays.
2. Preparation of an individual essay plan for discussion with the tutor.
3. In-class marking and discussion of two coursework essays following the departmental marking criteria.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component B	✓	75 %	Individual coursework essay (2500 words)
Written Assignment - Component A		25 %	Individual essay draft self-assessment (500 words)
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component B	✓	75 %	Individual coursework essay (2500 words)
Written Assignment - Component A		25 %	Individual final essay self-assessment (500 words)

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<b>Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods</b>																	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Module Learning Outcomes</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Reference</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Detail and interpret basic ecological theories, concepts and processes</td> <td>MO1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Explain how organisms interact with each other and their environment, shaping ecosystem structure and functioning, and influencing species distribution</td> <td>MO2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Explain the dynamics of communities and ecosystems</td> <td>MO3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Review the different spatial and temporal scales over which ecological processes work</td> <td>MO4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Describe and critique fundamental field sampling strategies and methods</td> <td>MO5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apply knowledge in a rigorous way in order to address specific ecological questions</td> <td>MO6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Self-assess progress towards comprehensive answers to ecological questions</td> <td>MO7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Module Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Reference</b>	Detail and interpret basic ecological theories, concepts and processes	MO1	Explain how organisms interact with each other and their environment, shaping ecosystem structure and functioning, and influencing species distribution	MO2	Explain the dynamics of communities and ecosystems	MO3	Review the different spatial and temporal scales over which ecological processes work	MO4	Describe and critique fundamental field sampling strategies and methods	MO5	Apply knowledge in a rigorous way in order to address specific ecological questions	MO6	Self-assess progress towards comprehensive answers to ecological questions	MO7
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Reading List	<p><i>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</i></p> <p><a href="https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmh3-15-2.html">https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmh3-15-2.html</a></p>																

<b>Part 5: Contributes Towards</b>	
<p>This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:</p> <p>Geography [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19</p> <p>Geography [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2018-19</p>	