



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Ecology		
Module Code	UBGMH3-15-2	Level	Level 5
For implementation from	2020-21		
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>Features: Module Entry requirements: 60 credits at level 1</p> <p>Educational Aims: 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>Outline Syllabus: 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>

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

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: 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 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 and seminars. 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 feedback on various stages of their essay production. 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 portfolio (Component A) and a final essay (Component B).

Summative Assessment

Component A – Essay draft self-assessment portfolio (equivalent to 1000 words). Learning outcome 7

- Students will submit a portfolio of work that represents their engagement with the feedback opportunities available for the Component B essay. This may include activities such as preparation of essay plans, self-assessment against marking criteria, reflection within feedback meetings with staff.

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

Component B – Individual essay of 2,500 words. Learning outcomes 1-6			
Students will answer one of a selection of essay questions.			
Formative Assessment Students will have opportunities to receive feedback on multiple stages of their essay development and will be expected to reflect and take action on that feedback.			
First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component B	✓	60 %	Individual coursework essay (2500 words)
Written Assignment - Component A		40 %	Individual essay draft self-assessment portfolio (500 words)
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component B	✓	60 %	Individual coursework essay (2500 words)
Written Assignment - Component A		40 %	Individual final essay self-assessment portfolio (500 words)

Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:	
	Module Learning Outcomes	Reference
	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
Contact Hours	Independent Study Hours:	
	Independent study/self-guided study	114
	Total Independent Study Hours:	114
	Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	
	Face-to-face learning	36

STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

	Total Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	36
	Hours to be allocated	150
	Allocated Hours	150
Reading List	<p><i>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</i></p> <p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmh3-15-2.html</p>	

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