



Module Specification

Ecology

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Ecology

Module code: UBGMH3-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Environment & Technology

Department: FET Dept of Geography & Environmental Mgmt

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: Not applicable

Features: Module Entry requirements: 60 credits at level 1

Educational aims: 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.

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

In addition to the Learning Outcomes, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally assess the following:

- Skills in self-management
- Small group negotiation and problem-solving

Outline syllabus: Themes include:

1. Principles of ecology: levels of organisation, taxonomy, lifezones, population dynamics, application to nature conservation.
2. Community function: 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 populations and communities.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning on this module will include interactive lectures and exercises 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.

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 exercises. 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)

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

MO1 Detail and interpret basic ecological theories, concepts and processes

MO2 Explain how organisms interact with each other and their environment, shaping ecosystem structure and functioning, and influencing species distribution

MO3 Explain the dynamics of communities and ecosystems

MO4 Review the different spatial and temporal scales over which ecological processes work

MO5 Describe and critique fundamental field sampling strategies and methods

MO6 Apply knowledge in a rigorous way in order to address specific ecological questions

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmh3-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmh3-15-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment in this module strategically embeds industry relevant skills into the assessed tasks to ensure students develop more than simply a knowledge of their subject. Students perform an industry skill and then report on it to fully exercise a technique recognised by industry employers. This type of assessment maximises a student's engagement and enhances their career prospects post-graduation. The submitted summative components comprise a presentation and a final essay.

Summative Assessment

Presentation – 5-10mins presentation. Students will submit an individual presentation.

Written Assignment – Individual essay of 2500 words. Students will submit an

individual essay which will test understanding of theory, concepts and processes of an applied industry skill.

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

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

Formative Assessment

Formative feedback will be provided to students via support sessions with the tutor.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: 5-10 minute presentation

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Individual coursework essay (2500 words)

Weighting: 75 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Presentation (Resit)

Description: 5-10 minute presentation

Weighting: 25 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Individual coursework essay (2500 words)

Weighting: 75 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

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

Geography [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Geography {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] - Not Running BSc (Hons) 2021-22

Geography {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] - Not Running BSc (Hons) 2021-22