

IP201-30 Sustainability

23/24

Department

Liberal Arts

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Lauren Bird

Credit value

30

Module duration

22 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module is a core second year module on the BA in Liberal Arts courses. It complements the other core module on Consumption and each explores a major organizing concept of contemporary society from different intellectual perspectives.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This module complements its sister Y2 core module in Consumption, with each exploring a major organizing concept of contemporary society from different intellectual perspectives. Where Consumption draws on cultural interventions and sociological and historical theoretical frameworks, Sustainability instead focusses on contemporary ecological, economic, social and regulatory challenges and the development of effective evidence-based policy.

The module aims to provide students with in-depth and holistic study of the topical issue of Sustainability using a multi-disciplinary PBL approach. Students examine a number of dimensions of sustainability, viewed from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, and acquire a detailed evidence-based understanding of current controversies, debates and theories.

In addition to an understanding of the factors inherent in a broad definition of sustainability, students will be encouraged to explore feasible policy approaches to address the most pressing issues, and to have an awareness of the barriers to effective policymaking in the sustainability

sphere.

The problems explored throughout this module revolve around questions of defining and understanding sustainability, the challenges of measuring and assessing it, opportunities and limitations in individual action, issues in business and globalisation, and the sustainability of population and society.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The module's structure is based around the broad issue of Sustainability, with a strong focus on problems based across the spectrum of social, economic and environmental challenges. The course begins with a study of the current critical and theoretical approaches to addressing Sustainability. Theoretical frameworks and systems thinking are also introduced as ways on understanding sustainability. After the introductory section of the course. Classes then branch out into topics on sustainability with a weekly problem for students to work on in groups. The Sustainability topics are usually grouped into related topics, however, there is also the freedom in the course for student interests to lead the direction of study through the selection of weekly topics for some of the sessions later in the course. The final section of the course is a return to the conceptual and theoretical approaches to Sustainability. Focusing on some of the strengths and limitations uncovered throughout the course, challenges to progress, possible solutions and revisiting our thoughts and preferred frameworks for understanding Sustainability.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced cognitive skills such as critical analysis, source-text analysis, quantitative and qualitative research methods and communication skills.
- Utilise meta-cognitive skills developed through problem-based learning such as planning how to approach a learning task, identifying the appropriate strategies to solve a problem, monitoring their own comprehension, self-assessing and self-correcting, and becoming aware of their own learning, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Demonstrate both knowledge and understanding of the challenges inherent in conceptualising and defining sustainability in a holistic sense (including contextual, ethical, political), and the skills required to deal with such complexity (such as systems thinking).
- Interpret and critically respond to sustainability-related issues through subject-specific knowledge relating to measures used to assess sustainability (and their limitations), the role of businesses and the relationship between economic growth and sustainability, the debates around population growth, and the tension between urban and rural development.
- Articulate their own individual framework for narrating and explaining sustainability.

Indicative reading list

The module will be taught using 2 textbooks (both available as e-books from the library): Kopnina, H. and Shoreman-Ouimet, E. (eds) (2015). Sustainability : Key Issues. Routledge
Stibbe, A. (ed) (2009). The Handbook of Sustainability Literacy. Green Books

Interdisciplinary

This is a core module on the BA in Liberal Arts course which offers students an interdisciplinary learning experience allowing students to achieve breadth and depth of knowledge

Subject specific skills

Demonstrate both knowledge and understanding of the challenges inherent in conceptualising and defining sustainability in a holistic sense (including contextual, ethical, political), and the skills required to deal with such complexity (such as systems thinking)

Transferable skills

The module's structure is based around the broad issue of Sustainability, with a strong focus on problems based across the spectrum of social, economic and environmental challenges. The course begins with a study of the current critical and theoretical approaches to addressing Sustainability. Theoretical frameworks and systems thinking are also introduced as ways on understanding sustainability. After the introductory section of the course. Classes then branch out into topics on sustainability with a weekly problem for students to work on in groups. The Sustainability topics are usually grouped into related topics, however, there is also the freedom in the course for student interests to lead the direction of study through the selection of weekly topics for some of the sessions later in the course. The final section of the course is a return to the conceptual and theoretical approaches to Sustainability. Focusing on some of the strengths and limitations uncovered throughout the course, challenges to progress, possible solutions and revisiting our thoughts and preferred frameworks for understanding Sustainability.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	2 sessions of 2 hours (2%)
Practical classes	20 sessions of 2 hours (24%)
Private study	122 hours (73%)
Total	166 hours

Private study description

Reading, research and preparation for practical classes

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time
Essay	25%	30 hours
Response paper		
Group Presentation	10%	20 hours
Presentation (Term 1) 10% 15-minute group presentations		
Critical response essay	25%	30 hours
Group Research Proposal	25%	30 hours
Group research proposal 15% group mark 10% modified group for individual mark		
Group Presentation Term 2	10%	20 hours
Group presentation term 2 15 min presentation		
Group and Self Evaluation	5%	4 hours
Groupwork team and self evaluation 5% for completion and results may impact individual component mark in group report.		

Feedback on assessment

Individual, detailed feedback for the response papers will be provided via Tabula. Feedback for the group presentations will be provided verbally, and in writing via Tabula. Feedback on research proposal will be provided via written comments published on Tabula. Feedback on reflective piece will be provided on Tabula.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of UVCA-LA99 Undergraduate Liberal Arts