GD110-15 Sustainable Development: Past, Present, Futures

24/25

Department
Global Sustainable Development
Level
Undergraduate Level 1
Module leader
Romain Chenet
Credit value
15
Module duration
10 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

While sometimes presented as a 2015 innovation, the aims underlying Sustainable Development are far from nascent. In turn, understanding the histories and theories that culminate into its contemporary forms is vital to successfully exploring the complex problems that Global Sustainable Development now sets out to address. This module introduces students to how the global vision for Sustainable Development has come to be, critically explores its contemporary priorities, and considers future opportunities for its realisation. Drawing from the history and theories that prefigure present-day commitments to Sustainable Development, the module will offer a relevant and useful source of learning on the topic that aims to support students across their BASc in Global Sustainable Development.

Module aims

- To introduce learners to the wider concept of Global Sustainable Development through unpacking of its core themes and constituent aims across recent history.
- To contextualise nuanced problems in contemporary development efforts by assessing the 'problems and solutions framework' of Sustainable Development itself, and how this has

been theorised in leading up to the 2030 Agenda.
- To inspire students in considering how present weaknesses and tensions in development issues can be addressed, helping us conceptualise Sustainable Development as a force for positive global futures.

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.

1. Past 1: Civilising missions and the murky history of sustainable progress
2. Past 2: Post-WW2 state-based efforts for sustained development
3. Past 3: Honing a global project - Modernisation, dependency, and systematised development
4. Present 1: Liberal development shocks and uneasy foundations for our era
5. Present 1: Critical backlashes for sustainable change: post-development and participatory approaches
6. Present 1: A goals-based millennium: from the MDGs to Agenda 2030
7. Interlude: Assessment support workshop
8. Futures 1: Challenges and opportunities for the valuable myths of Sustainable Development
9. Futures 2: Pluralised avenues for social justice and equality
10. Futures 3: From collective pasts to our common future

Learning outcomes

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

- Explore key theories and historical processes relevant to Global Sustainable Development.
- Analyse academic debates over the central problems and solutions that define Global Sustainable Development.
- Actively consider future opportunities to better achieve the Global Sustainable Development vision in practice.

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Interdisciplinary

Sustainable Development is generally understood to require a holistic, multifaceted approach that addresses economic, social, and environmental priorities. This module has been designed to evoke GSD's problem-based and response-focused pedagogy, and as such draws on a transdisciplinary knowledge in the design and delivery of learning opportunities.

The assessments require students to demonstrate transdisciplinary aptitude in learning for Sustainable Development, as students will need to synthesize, critique, and apply knowledge from

a range of disciplines under the varied and multi-disciplinary umbrella of development studies.

International

This is a module on the BASc in Global Sustainable Development, which offers a transdisciplinary and international learning experience for students to achieve breadth and depth of knowledge.

Subject specific skills

- Understanding core theories and historical processes relevant to global sustainable development.
- Knowledge of priorities in the 2030 Agenda and its commitments to global aims, as well as initial understanding of academic debates over central problems and solutions defining our ambitious era of Global Sustainable Development.
- Ability to actively consider future opportunities to achieve the Sustainable Development vision in practice.

Transferable skills

- Working with others: developing professional relationships with others to achieve individual and team outcomes in group activities, presentations, and other module tasks (all forms of employment).
- Effective communication: developing ideas and insights which engage others, driving forward discussions with a focus on actionable and practical solutions. This is a key focus of the module and relevant across sectors (marketing, business, civil sector, third sector)
- Time management: through a requirement to plan independent study, assignments, and engage in other forms of time management in this module, students are able to build valuable workplace skills (all forms of employment)
- Emotional intelligence: students develop a nuanced and practical understanding of complex global issues with a firm emphasis on taking local context and individual experiences into account, supporting future careers where a considered and engaged approach to clients/stakeholders is relevant (social work, NGO project work, customer relations, management, etc.)

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	10 sessions of 1 hour (11%)
Seminars	10 sessions of 1 hour (11%)
Private study	75 hours (79%)
Total	95 hours

Private study description

Complete all assigned readings and preparation for seminars, review lectures and revise learning in advance of assignment preparation.

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	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Short essay	25%	10 hours	Yes (extension)
Students will write a brief mid-term essay engaging with chosen themes raised in the foundational literature taught in weeks 1-3, selecting from a list of 6 provided questions. The essay will assess students against intended learning objectives, and their written communication skills, offering an early opportunity for essay-writing skills development and individual feedback on their areas for improvement.			
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Individual Presentation	25%	15 hours	Yes (extension)
Students will deliver an individual case study presentation, responding to a theme from weeks 4-7 of the module. Indicative guidance on possible themes will be provided, and presentations must demonstrate historical, theoretical, and/or conceptual knowledge learned on the module.			
Reassessment component is the same			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Review of academic literature	50%	30 hours	Yes (extension)

Students will write a review of academic literature in relation to a specific module topic. A list of topics and suggested themes from across the module will be shared, and selections from the module reading list must be used in completing the review.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Tabula comments.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UIPA-L8A1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development