

# GD206-30 Inequalities and Sustainable Development: Inclusion and Dignity for All

24/25

**Department**

Global Sustainable Development

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 2

**Module leader**

Marta Guerriero

**Credit value**

30

**Module duration**

20 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module focuses on Sustainable Development Goal 10 “Reduced inequalities” and aims to reflect on the UN’s decision to integrate inequalities into the sustainable development agenda and examines the relationship between inequalities and sustainability. It allows students to focus in-depth on the concept of inequalities and analyse current debates around inequality and socio-economic environmental sustainability in order to gain an understanding of the complexities of the problems and recognise the challenges faced by policy makers aiming to resolve those problems

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

- To critically reflect on the UN's decision to integrate inequalities into the sustainable development agenda (SDG 10: “Reduced inequalities”) and examine the relationship between inequalities and sustainability.

- To analyse how inequalities shape our society, economy and politics, using cross-disciplinary theories and evidence from empirical data and case studies.
- To engage with the most current research on inequalities and examine the perspectives of different disciplines, such as social economics, public policy, area studies, social psychology, political economy and history.

## 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 will start with a general introduction on the concept of inequality and its place within the global sustainable development framework. It will then continue with a combination of lectures and seminars to analyse different types of inequalities and their impacts within specific contexts, such as work, politics, environment, discrimination, globalisation and empowerment. Each topic is introduced by a lecture, followed by weekly case study-based seminars. The selected case studies in this outline are indicative and might be updated to reflect the current situation.

### Term 1

Week 1-2: Does Inequality Matter? Justice, Happiness and Efficiency

Week 3-5: Inequalities at Work: Professional Discrimination

Examples of case studies: Malaysia: Ethnic discrimination; Jordan: Gender discrimination and the gender pay gap

Week 6-8: Does Inequality Threaten “Democracy”?

Examples of case studies: Chile: Pinochet and Neoliberalism; Cuba: Revolution and Education; France: The “yellow vests” movement

Week 9-10: Inequality and Environmental Justice

Examples of case studies: US: Flint Water Crisis; Latin America: Indigenous communities

### Term 2

Week 1-3: Discrimination and Society: Age, Health and Disability

Case studies on: Mental and physical disability; The ageing population

Week 4-5: Automation, Globalisation and Inequality

Case studies on: The IT revolution and jobs; international trade agreements

Week 6-8: Inequality, Opportunities and Empowerment

Case studies on: Gender: Access to education; Gender-based violence

Week 9-10: Towards More Sustainable Societies: What Are the Solutions?

## Learning outcomes

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

- Identify and appraise key characteristics of, and recent developments in, inequalities in modern societies, at a local/domestic level as well as in a more global context.
- Critically analyse the current debate around inequalities and socio-economic-environmental sustainability, appreciate the complexities of these problems and recognise the challenges

faced by policy makers who aim to resolve them.

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge of various cross-disciplinary theories and empirical evidence on the determinants of inequalities, their consequences, and people's attitudes to them.
- Demonstrate an ability to undertake research on issues relating to inequalities.

## Indicative reading list

The syllabus and reading list will be adapted to reflect the most current academic research on the topic. Various journal articles and resources will be made available on Moodle and/or Talis Aspire.

Barnes, C. and Mercer, G. 2005. *The Social Model of Disability: Europe and the Majority World*. Leeds: Disability Press.

Bradley, H. 2016. *Fractured Identities. Changing Patterns of Inequality* (2nd ed.). Cambridge: Polity Press.

Desai, Vandana, and Robert B. Potter. 2014. *The Companion to Development Studies*. Abingdon, Oxo: Routledge.

Donald, Kate . 2017., "Tackling Inequality: the Potential of the Sustainable Development Goals", Open Global Rights. Available at: <https://www.openglobalrights.org/tackling-inequality-potential-of-sustainable-development-goals/>

European Commission. 2017. "2017 Report on Equality between women and men in the EU." Available at:  
[https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/2017\\_report\\_equality\\_women\\_men\\_in\\_the\\_eu\\_en.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/2017_report_equality_women_men_in_the_eu_en.pdf)

Giddens, A. and P. W. Sutton. 2013. *Sociology* (7th ed.), Cambridge: Polity Press.

Holton, R. 2014. *Global Inequalities*. London: Macmillan Education.

Platt, L. 2011. *Understanding Inequalities: Stratification and Difference*. Cambridge: Polity.

Sachs, J.D. 2015. *The Age of Sustainable Development*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Salverda, W., Nolan, B. and T.M. Smeeding. 2011. *The Oxford Handbook of Economic Inequality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

UNDP. 2017. "Ageing, Older Persons and the 2039 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Available at: [https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2017/07/UNDP\\_AARP\\_HelpAge\\_International\\_AgeingOlderpersons-and-2030-Agenda-2.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2017/07/UNDP_AARP_HelpAge_International_AgeingOlderpersons-and-2030-Agenda-2.pdf)

Warwick-Booth, L. 2013. *Social Inequality*. London: Sage.

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## Research element

Research skills are embedded into the teaching strategy of the module. Students are expected to read and critically analyse scholarly papers written from a variety of perspectives

## **Interdisciplinary**

This is an optional module on the Global Sustainable Development course which adopts an interdisciplinary approach spanning the arts, humanities, social and natural sciences fields in order to engage with the major global challenges facing contemporary society, explore these 'big problems,' from a variety of perspectives and consider a range of possible solutions. Specifically, this module aims to equip students with advanced knowledge of various cross-disciplinary theories and empirical evidence on the determinants of inequalities, its consequences, and people's attitudes to them.

## **International**

This is an optional module on the Global Sustainable Development course which offers a unique trans-disciplinary and international learning experience that allows students to achieve breadth and depth of knowledge. Specifically, this module aims to enable students to identify and appraise key characteristics of, and recent developments in, inequalities in modern societies, at a local/domestic level as well as in a more global context.

## **Subject specific skills**

Ability to:

critically assess and analyse sustainability issues that need to be addressed, including real-life examples

use and apply established frameworks and methodologies for analysing the impact(s) of a behaviour or process

generate and evaluate different models of sustainable development to assess their likely impact  
actively implement or contribute to changes that promote sustainable development within the scope of own learning experience

engage with real-life problems relevant to sustainable development

use historical knowledge and an understanding of the consequences of past actions to envision how futures may be shaped

identify the importance of empowering individuals and organisations to work together to create new knowledge

employ leadership for sustainable development by challenging assumptions and negotiating alternatives to unsustainable current practices

identify the opportunities to support and develop a progressive and resilient culture that encourages citizens, professions and institutions to put learning into practice

## **Transferable skills**

Written communication skills

Oral communication skills

Working with others

Problem solving  
Information technology  
Numeracy  
Research across various disciplines  
Peer review

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	8 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Seminars	20 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
Private study	252 hours (84%)
Total	300 hours

### Private study description

Reading and research in preparation for seminars

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

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

### Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Conference presentation + discussant	20%		No
“Conference” presentation + discussant			
Portfolio of Critical Responses	30%		Yes (extension)
Entries in logbook – 4 entries of 500 words			
Research Paper	50%		Yes (extension)
Research Paper - 4000 words			

## Feedback on assessment

Feedback to all submissions will be provided as written electronic feedback via Tabula.\r\nOngoing feedback will be provided verbally during the workshops and the supervision meetings.\r\n

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 2 of UIPA-R4L8 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Global Sustainable Development

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UIPA-L1L8 Undergraduate Economic Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-XL38 Undergraduate Education Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-L8A1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-L8N1 Undergraduate Global Sustainable Development and Business
- Year 2 of UIPA-R4L8 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-V1L8 Undergraduate History and Global Sustainable Development
- UIPA-C1L8 Undergraduate Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of C1L8 Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development
  - Year 2 of C1LA Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development: Biological Sciences
  - Year 2 of C1LB Life Sciences and Global Sustainable Development: Ecology
- Year 2 of UIPA-V5L8 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-L2L8 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-C8L8 Undergraduate Psychology and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-L3L8 Undergraduate Sociology and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UIPA-W4L8 Undergraduate Theatre and Performance Studies and Global Sustainable Development