

FP087-30 Cultural Studies

26/27

Department

Warwick Global Academy

Level

Foundation

Module leader

Rosemary Alexander-Jones

Credit value

30

Module duration

25 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module explores the ways culture reflects and shapes society. Students will study how cultural norms and practices influence everyday life and worldviews. The module draws on a plurality of perspectives from across the social sciences and arts to examine cultural phenomena in local and global contexts. By the end of the module, students will be able to apply key concepts to analyse cultural practices, activities, policies and spaces and demonstrate the critical thinking and analytical skills needed for undergraduate study.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module aims to provide students with an overview of how identity, and social and political relations interlink with the dynamics of cultural realities.

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.

Through its units, the module addresses the various ways in which culture shapes society and society builds culture. This module will cover three topics:

1. **Understanding the Multiple Dimensions of Culture:** This unit explores what culture is and how it has been defined across disciplines. Some potential topics that this unit will explore are: definitions of culture and its elements; how culture has been portrayed in opposition to nature; and the way that cultural norms and values define our everyday relations.
2. **Culture, social relations, and institutions:** This unit addresses how culture materialises through practices and social institutions, such as public policies, industries, and everyday relationships.
3. **The Reproduction and Production of Culture:** This unit examines social practices that produce and reproduce culture such as cultural industries, museums, and education. It also analyses how these practices create narratives and memories about societies.

Learning outcomes

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

- Describe how culture represents and thus shapes the everyday relationships and practices of societies
- Analyse the role of cultural institutions and creative industries in contemporary society
- Apply interdisciplinary approaches to examining cultural phenomena in local and global contexts

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Interdisciplinary

Students will have opportunities to draw on knowledge and skills acquired within the different modules on their pathway.

International

All students are international, representing a wide range of cultural, linguistic, and educational backgrounds. They bring diverse experiences and perspectives, enriching discussion and supporting the development of intercultural awareness. Examples for analysis and evaluation are drawn from a variety of countries, ensuring that teaching and learning are embedded in an international context.

Subject specific skills

Students will be able to:

Analyse the role of culture and cultural manifestations in society and how they mediate the values,

ideas, and relations of societies.

Analyse cultural phenomena, how they define dominant social ideas and values, and how social groups use culture to transform them.

Communicate theoretically informed analysis of cultural issues.

Use qualitative and quantitative research methods to gather data related to culture and its many expressions.

Transferable skills

- Social phenomena analysis and research skills
 - Public policy analysis skills
 - Critical thinking
 - Communication and presentation skills
 - Collaboration and group work skills
 - Data gathering skills
-

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	6 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Seminars	25 sessions of 4 hours (33%)
Online learning (independent)	8 sessions of 1 hour (3%)
Private study	126 hours (42%)
Assessment	60 hours (20%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Students will have weekly texts to read about the module's topics. They will also have to research literature to develop their knowledge and skills. Also, they students will research cases related to how culture mediates human relations, values, institutions, and the economy on their own. Flipped learning including pre-recorded videos.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Essay on the role of culture in society	40%	24 hours	Yes (extension)
The essay title will require students to analyse a cultural issue using theoretical approaches to culture and society. Through this assessment students will demonstrate their ability to effectively apply theories to explain sociocultural issues, to analyse evidence to build theoretically informed arguments, and to communicate their ideas clearly.			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component			
Critical Review of a Cultural Event	40%	24 hours	Yes (extension)
Using the theoretical frameworks covered in the module's third unit, students will write a report about a cultural event (such as art exhibition). In the report, they will analyse the event, drawing from insights of anthropology, cultural studies, museum studies, and public policy studies. The assessment will allow students to demonstrate their capacity to use theory to analyse a cultural event from a critical point of view, situate it in its historical and social context, and unpack the values, ideas, and aspirations represented in it.			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component			
Culture and Society Poster	20%	12 hours	No
In pairs, students will prepare and present a poster analysing how aspects of the concept of culture introduced in the first unit materialise in cultural events. Students will choose a cultural event (such as a festival, concert, religious observance, or national celebration) and analyse it using relevant theories and frameworks.			

Reassessment component

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Culture and Society Poster (Reassessment)			Yes (extension)
The student will be asked to individually prepare a new poster and presentation on a different cultural event.			

Feedback on assessment

Written Feedback on Tabula.

Availability

There is currently no information about the courses for which this module is core or optional.