GD317-15 Managing Natural Resources

26/27

Department
Global Sustainable Development
Level
Undergraduate Level 3
Module leader
Jessica Savage
Credit value
15
Module duration
10 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Optional module available only to Global Sustainable Development students. This module aims to provide students with an understanding of the complexities associated with the protection and management of global natural resources, and to identify a path forward towards their sustainable use.

Module web page

Module aims

This module aims to provide students with real-world experience relating to the (un)sustainable use of natural resources. Students will gain experience in tropical ecosystem ecology, resource assessment and the design, implementation and management of conservation initiatives, and their impacts on local people and communities.

This module will also focus on how international, regional and local policies designed to manage natural resources impact real-world contexts. Students will investigate the impacts of global legislation such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity on both the natural systems that they were designed to conserve, and the human populations dependent on their resources.

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.

This module will be taught using a combination of taught lectures and practical seminars. The first 4 weeks of the module focus on foundational knowledge in environmental policy, natural resource economics, and basic principles of ecology. The second part of the module will be taught using real world case studies. Exact topics will vary depending on topicality, and expert availability. Indicative sessions include the following:

- Tropical Rainforest Ecology
- Coral Reef Ecology
- Mangrove Ecology
- Use of Natural Resources
- Historic Trajectories
- Elephant Conservation
- Oil Palm management
- Plastics
- Protected area design and impacts

Learning outcomes

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

- Apply key theories from natural resource management research and critique their use in real-world contexts;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of conservation strategies, identify barriers to management interventions and propose improvements to current initiatives;
- Integrate knowledge of key monitoring techniques to design and conduct a group research project relating to environmental resource issues.
- Explore the realities of life in a developing community, and understand the contexts and constraints of current governance and policy structures.
- Critically reflect on lived experiences and relate these experiences to theoretical knowledge and personal experience.

Research element

This is an optional module on the Global Sustainable Development courses which aim to facilitate the acquisition by students of a range of methods of enquiry from various disciplines and equip them to deploy those skills in research. Research skills are embedded into the teaching strategy of all of the course's modules which, collaboratively, seek to develop and enhance students’ capacity to conduct independently original research into a current problem.

Interdisciplinary

This is an optional module available to students taking one of the BASc the Global Sustainable Development courses which offer a unique trans-disciplinary and international learning experience that allows students to achieve breadth and depth of knowledge.

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 focuses on a number case studies from around the world in order to contextualise the theories and frameworks studied.

Subject specific skills

Critically interpret and apply theoretical knowledge and frameworks relating to the effective conservation and management of natural resources.
Interpret regional and global legislation and policy, and determine impacts on different stakeholder groups. Use this knowledge to propose improvements to current policies
Critically assess human-ecosystem interactions, to identify necessary areas for management initiatives.
Identify key strengths and weaknesses in different environmental management programmes across different governance levels.
Detect key barriers to effective resource management processes globally and develop suitable, well-informed management programmes to overcome these barriers.

Transferable skills

Skills of critical analysis and interpretation and understanding of governmental policies related to management of natural resources

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Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (13%)	
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour 30 minutes (19%)	
External visits	(0%)	1 session of 4 hours
Private study	47 hours 30 minutes (67%)	
Total	70 hours	

Private study description

Reading, research and self-directed learning and preparation for seminars

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 A3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Systems Analysis and Narrative	30%	25 hours	Yes (extension)

Students will select a case study on a natural resource management intervention, and construct a systems map which integrates the key components of the management system. This will require them to visually represent the key drivers, stakeholders and governance principles which has both led to the management initiative being necessary and explains the current status. This map will accompany an 800 word narrative to explain the background to their case study and the relevance of the systems map.

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component			
Group Presentation	25%	15 hours	Yes (extension)

Students will identify two management initiatives, one success and one failure. They will then need to compare and contrast these case studies, and identify key lessons for the effective establishment of environmental management.

Reassessment component	
Individual Presentatioon	Yes (extension)

Students will identify two management initiatives, one success and one failure. They will then need to compare and contrast these case studies, and identify key lessons for the effective establishment of environmental management.

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Critical Policy Review	45%	40 hours	Yes (extension)
Students will identify a piece of legislation (national, regional or global) and critically appraise it’s impact and efficacy, before proposing suitable amendments to improve the original legislation.			
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be communicated electronically via tabula; individual face-to-face feedback will also be offered to all students.

Availability

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