

# IP2B5-15 Worlds of Consumption (Consuming Cultures Term 2-3)

**26/27**

**Department**

Liberal Arts

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 2

**Module leader**

Kim Lockwood Clough

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This is a core module in the second year of the the BAsc in Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. Centred on interdisciplinary examinations of society and consumer capitalism, this module explores how practices of consumption are represented within, and actively create both society and culture.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

This module critically examines the role that consumption plays in contemporary society, analysing different theorisations of processes of consumption and cultural works which engage with issues of consumption. Using an interdisciplinary Problem-Based learning approach, this module will encourage students to interrogate problems at the intersection of the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

### 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.

As this module uses problem-based learning, the syllabus and topics may change from year to year. Below is an indicative syllabus of topics that may be covered.

## Society and Consumption: The World That Consumption Built

### 2.1 Spaces of Consumption

### 2.2 Ordinary Escapism: Supermarkets, Shops, and Malls

### 2.3 Extraordinary Escapism: Theme Parks and Festivals

### 2.4 Culture and Capital: Museums

### 2.5 Consuming the Past: Heritage

### 2.6 Social Structures: Making Human Capital

### 2.7 Systems and Flows: Global Movements of Production, Consumption, and Waste

### 2.8 Political Consumption: Neoliberalism

### 2.9 Around the World: Globalisation

### 2.10 Assessment Support

## Learning outcomes

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

- demonstrate an understanding of how consumerism shapes cultures and societies
- critically analyse a variety of 'texts', such as objects, spaces, systems, practices, and experiences, in relation to consumer cultures
- make connections between past and present, and local and global, experiences of consumerism
- mobilise critical and theoretical perspectives to support and develop interpretations of consumer society
- evaluate interdisciplinary perspectives on consumer societies
- communicate ideas effectively to different audiences
- undertake independent research

## Research element

Seminar preparation includes guided independent research.

All assessments are research-focused.

The final assessment asks students to think holistically about the research process and make decisions about content, methodology and output; this acts as "light-touch" preparation for the final-year Liberal Arts dissertation.

## Interdisciplinary

This is a core module on the BA in Liberal Arts degree programme, which centres on interdisciplinary learning.

This module is not subject-specific. Instead, it is issue-focused and draws from a range of disciplinary perspectives, including (but not limited to): cultural studies, sociology, history,

geography, economics, marketing, philosophy, media studies, visual studies, and literary studies.

## International

The module looks at how practices of consumption homogenise local spaces into global (non)spaces, as well as how different global cultures are consumed through museums and tourism.

In addition to these specific points of focus and theorisation of internationalised consumer cultures, examples / case studies from a range of locations / cultures will be explored throughout the module.

## Subject specific skills

As this is an interdisciplinary module, all skills are inherently transferable across academic and professional contexts, as detailed below.

## Transferable skills

- independent research
  - communication of knowledge and ideas
  - constructing and supporting arguments
  - critical and creative thinking
  - collaborative working
  - problem solving
  - time management and organisation
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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	10 sessions of 2 hours (13%)
Tutorials	(0%)
Project supervision	3 sessions of 30 minutes (1%)
Practical classes	(0%)
Private study	33 hours 30 minutes (21%)
Assessment	100 hours (65%)
Total	155 hours

### Private study description

Reading, research, 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 A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
<b>Assessment component</b>			
Site Analysis	40%	40 hours	Yes (extension)
Analysis of site of consumption, in the form of an academic essay, site design + commentary, or other agreed format.			

Reassessment component is the same

**Assessment component**

Research Project	60%	60 hours	Yes (extension)
Research project centred on consumption.			

Reassessment component is the same

### Feedback on assessment

Feedback for all components will be provided in writing through Tabula. Students will be encouraged to make use of advice and feedback hours to discuss and reflect on feedback received.

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## Availability

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