

IP315-15 A Sustainable Serenissima: Water and the Future of Venice (Venice Short Course)

26/27

Department

Liberal Arts

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Bryan Brazeau

Credit value

15

Module duration

26 weeks

Assessment

70% coursework, 30% exam

Study locations

Warwick Venice Centre (Venice, Italy) Primary
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This is an optional module for the BA Liberal Arts, BAsc Liberal Arts and Sciences, GSD BASc Global Sustainable Development, and Design Studies degrees; it will be available to undergraduates across the University, but students from SCFS will have priority.

Module aims

This module examines the ways in which contemporary Venice confronts sustainability challenges and develops resilience. We will consider past, present, and future threats to a sustainable Venice, along with complex and unique local solutions using the three main pillars of sustainability (social, environmental, and economic areas) as lenses to focus our interdisciplinary discussions. The theme of 'water' will serve as a conceptual anchor to ground our consideration of issues such as rising sea levels, urbanization, resource management, energy production and distribution, along with historical Venetian industries such as, for example, publishing, shipbuilding, munitions,

glassmaking, finance, and tourism. We will also consider Venice's long tradition of hospitality as a sanctuary city, and the challenges Venice faces when welcoming migrants and refugees today.

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's interdisciplinary structure is based on the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, economic, and social. This module adds a fourth pillar: cultural sustainability. Prior to arrival in Venice, students will do preliminary readings to orient themselves on these topics. The intensive two weeks in Venice will focus on transhistorical issues and case studies linked to these pillars. The final session, in Term 1 of the academic year following the study in Venice, will feature a conference in week 7 where students present their final work to each other and to the instructor in a supportive academic environment. The module focuses on bringing together interdisciplinary knowledge and asking how Venice's past can inform both its present challenges and implementations of future solutions.

As the module uses problem-based learning, topics may change from year to year depending on contemporary issues and new research. Field visits may also change from year to year depending on availability, operational concerns, and relevance to the module topics.

An indicative syllabus is below:

Week 1: Introduction and Intersecting Contexts

- M. Introduction: Venice, Representations, and Sustainability Challenges
- T. Cultural Contexts: Migration and Sanctuary at the Crossroads of Global Trade
- W. Ecological Contexts I: Sustaining The Venetian Empire
- Th. Ecological Contexts II: Forestry and Fisheries Management
- Fr. Economic Contexts: Tourism from the 'Grand Tour' to the 'Grandi Navi'

Week 2: Case Studies and Problems in Contemporary Venice

- M. Holding Back the Tides 1: Wet and Dry Urban Infrastructure
- T. Global Gentrification, Cruise Ships, and Civic Resistance: The Fondaco de' Tedeschi
- W. Holding Back the Tides 2: the MOSE Project and the Venetian Lagoon
- Th. Industrial Arts and Crafts in Crisis: Porto Marghera, Burano, Arzanà
- Fr. A New Atlantis: Rebuilding For A Sustainable Future? (Fondazione Cini, Arsenale) /
—Conclusions

Please note that this module follows an OOC (out-of-cycle) module credit framework. Students will study for the module in the summer prior to their final year of UG study; formally register for the module in the final year of study; complete the assessment in T1, and obtain credits for that particular year. The module cannot be taken as not-for-credit, and all students outside Liberal Arts must have written permission from their home department's director of undergraduate studies (DUGS) to take the module.

Learning outcomes

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

- Identify the key sustainability challenges currently facing present-day Venice and the perspectives of concerned stakeholders.
- Engage in detailed reflection on how the city has dealt with such complex problems and competing economic, political, social, cultural, and environmental interests in the past.
- Critically analyse existing local sustainable solutions, and future implementation plans, along with their scalability and adaptability to other global challenges.
- Apply advanced cognitive skills to develop evidence-based policy proposals and critically reflective research.
- Implement meta-cognitive skills to approach wicked problems through Problem-Based Learning and gain greater understanding of their own role in the learning process.

Indicative reading list

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

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Research element

Students will produce a final research conference paper on a topic of their own choosing related to the themes of the module.

Interdisciplinary

This module offers a unique transdisciplinary learning experience allowing students to achieve breadth and depth of knowledge. The module is designed to provide the students with an understanding of relationships between the different disciplinary areas within sustainability, urban studies, and cultural studies, with a particular focus on Venice. It also invites the students to make connections with other disciplinary areas covered in their main study programme. It provides the students with a critical understanding of dominant traditions and methodologies associated with the main phenomena covered in the module and enables the students to transcend disciplinary boundaries. The interdisciplinary course cohort provides contact opportunities and learning to see from different perspectives is a core aspect of the learning experience.

International

The module draws on cases from different contexts, including different geopolitical areas, professional environments and linguistic contexts. The content and assessment invite the students to reflect on the societal relevance in different environments of the phenomena covered in the module. The assessment involves students working in groups with academic and ideally non-academic stakeholders which (will) allow for a global and local outlook to be built into the module's work. The international place-based experiential onsite learning is a core aspect of the learning experience.

Subject specific skills

Analytical skills attained through the analysis of existing local sustainable solutions, and future implementation plans, along with their scalability and adaptability to other global challenges.

Transferable skills

Advanced cognitive skills of critical reflection ; Meta-cognitive skills gained through Problem-Based Learning which aid understanding of own role in the learning process; Work effectively with others in group tasks and in teams; Plan and manage time in projects; Develop strong analytical skills; Find, evaluate and use previous research at a level appropriate for an intermediate-year module; Use a range of tools and resources effectively in the preparation of course work; Read and critically discuss academic papers effectively in the context of an intensive programme; Communicate clearly and effectively in discussions; Communicate ideas effectively in writing and in oral presentations.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	6 sessions of 1 hour (4%)
Seminars	10 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Tutorials	3 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Project supervision	1 session of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	76 hours 30 minutes (51%)
Assessment	53 hours 30 minutes (35%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Week 1 – Preparatory and background readings, online quiz (30 hours independent learning)

Week 2 – Readings for daily sessions and collaborative group work (20 hours independent learning)

Week 3 – Readings for daily sessions and collaborative group work (26.5 hours independent learning)

Weeks 4 onwards — Final assessment prep (covered in the assessment hours)

(47 hours of total work expected for 20-minute conference paper, factored into assessment hours)

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group D1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Research Project or Policy Proposal	70%	47 hours	No

This is the final (and main) piece of assessment in this module. It asks students to devise a research project for an essay of their chosen interdisciplinary topic, or to prepare a policy proposal informed by research.

Whichever option students choose, they must present their findings in a 20-minute conference presentation* that will take place in Term 1, Week 7. Students will be required to submit their script/notes for the presentation (including proper referencing), their slides (if applicable), and an annotated bibliography of at least 15 peer-reviewed sources.

Students will have the opportunity to discuss their projects, topics, and argument development with the module convenor in assessment support sessions that will be held around the start of T1.

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

Online Test (Take-Home)	30%	6 hours 30 minutes	No
-------------------------	-----	--------------------	----

Online timed test in week one to ensure comprehension and critical thinking around set background readings in week 1 prior to arrival in Venice.

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Detailed feedback for conference presentation will be provided via Tabula.

Feedback on test will be provided on Moodle.

Availability

Pre-requisites

The module is open to all students in SCFS and across the University (with permission required from external departments). Students take the module in Venice during in the summer prior to their final year of study (for students on study year abroad or work placement, this would follow the year abroad/ work placement).

The module is NOT available to first-year students who are progressing to second-year or to students who are already in their final year prior to the intensive teaching in Venice.

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UVCA-LA99 Undergraduate Liberal Arts
 - Year 2 of LA92 Liberal Arts with Classics
 - Year 2 of LA73 Liberal Arts with Design Studies
 - Year 2 of LA83 Liberal Arts with Economics
 - Year 2 of LA82 Liberal Arts with Education
 - Year 2 of LA95 Liberal Arts with English
 - Year 2 of LA81 Liberal Arts with Film and Television Studies
 - Year 2 of LA93 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 2 of LA97 Liberal Arts with History
 - Year 2 of LA71 Liberal Arts with Law
 - Year 2 of LA91 Liberal Arts with Life Sciences
 - Year 2 of LA75 Liberal Arts with Modern Languages and Cultures
 - Year 2 of LA96 Liberal Arts with Philosophy
 - Year 2 of LA94 Liberal Arts with Theatre and Performance Studies

This module is Unusual option for:

- Year 2 of UVCA-LA99 Undergraduate Liberal Arts