

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module Title: Contemporary Issues	Level: 3	Credit Value: 20
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Module code: LND304	Cost Centre: GAHT	JACS3 code: N/A
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered: 2	With effect from: September 2014
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Office use only: To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: September 2014
	Date revised: -
	Version no: 1

Existing/New: New	Title of module being replaced (if any): N/A
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Originating Academic Department: Biology and Environment	Module Leader: Richard Lewis
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Module duration (total hours): 200	Status: core/option/elective (identify programme where appropriate): Core to all Foundation Year Strands
Scheduled learning & teaching hours: 50	
Independent study hours: 150	
Placement hours: 0	

Programme(s) in which to be offered: All programmes with Foundation Years	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels): None
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<p>Module Aims:</p> <p>The module aims to introduce the students to a variety of contemporary issues. It will enable the students to relate their area of interest to the issues presented and instigate healthy discussion and reflective practice amongst the subject groups</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this module, students will be able to ...

1. Reflect on a range of contemporary issues directly relating to their subject area
2. Research issues and relate outcomes to their subject areas
3. Discuss contemporary issues with reference to their chosen strand subject

Key skills for employability

1. Written, oral and media communication skills
2. Leadership, team working and networking skills
3. Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
4. Information technology skills and digital literacy
5. Information management skills
6. Research skills
7. Intercultural and sustainability skills
8. Career management skills
9. Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self management)
10. Numeracy

Assessment:

The assessment will take the form of a portfolio and will typically include:

- a) Student views/perceptions prior to attending lectures and undertaking background research.
- b) Details of research and topics covered.
- c) A reflective account which draws together their views and opinions of the lectures considered.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	All	Portfolio	100%		3,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be delivered as a series of bespoke lectures by experts in their fields that will introduce the students to a range of contemporary issues that will have a direct link to the individual disciplines through a direct or indirect route. Each lecture will focus on an issue such as sustainability, the environment or employability skills. Prior to each lecture the students will be expected to prepare by reading the selected texts posted on Moodle. The sessions will last about 1.5 hours and be followed by a question and answer/ open forum. The session will close with the students attending a plenary session led by a tutor who will address the issues relevant to the subject strand.

Syllabus outline (indicative): The sessions will run for 12 weeks in Trimester 2 and will be made up of a selection of topic areas, some suggestions for which are listed below.

1. History-People and Places. Examining the role of national identity, culture and history as tool for understanding its people in terms of business activity

2. Culture-Art, literature and folklore; How familiarisation with the representations of cultural embodiments through literature, art, folklore and tradition and individual should develop a better understanding of the traditions and values of a society.

3. Environment-The Natural World and Our Place in it. The environment has an impact on all members of society, the failure to “have a care” for the world we live in, recreationally and industrially will impact upon us all. Our interaction with nature has re-shaped the world and a new conscientious mentality is vital to our survival in the future.

4. Technology- Where is Man within a World of machines? . Is there a truth in “Die Hard 4”, “I Robot” and “I think therefore I am”.

5. Communication-To Speak is a Right, to be Heard is a Skill. Whether it is speaking in conversation, writing or presenting, the skills necessary for each medium varies so it is important to learn how to understand an audience and to successfully communicate.

6. Business and economy- is the recession real? Experts in the field of business and economy will shed light and give a detailed and meaningful insight into one of the biggest issues of present day.

7. Society online-Is privacy Going Extinct? Social media platforms have taken front seat in the way we communicate with one another. It has become a tool for businesses to reach out to their consumer audiences and for the world of marketing there is virtually nothing that is done without great attention to and involvement with Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Do analogies with Orwell’s 1984 hold stronger than ever before.

8. Psychology-How can we get Our Working Memory to Work For Us? The psychological strain that students go through during the life of their course has become a well-known cliché; however it carries many serious implications. Understanding ourselves and utilising our minds in ways which are kind to our wellbeing can greatly enhance not only the student experience but also help us to achieve greater results in our studies.

9. What Price Primark fashion? In a world where profit margins are all important and the drive to sell clothing and food at low prices affects producers and workers all over the world. Have Aldi, Lidl and the Poundshops got it right.

10. Philosophy-Where is Our mind and the mystery of Consciousness? Such a question is rarely given careful examination, however everyone should familiarise themselves with the mysterious nature of the powerful machine that is the mind.

11. Creativity is the Inventor of Inventors. To follow on from the mystery of consciousness; how do researchers “think outside the box!” and interact with other disciplines in order to feed and inspire their own research.. “This is not relevant to me!” is not a statement that should appear in the open minded student’s head.

12. Congratulations on your degree, so what use is it? Speak to leaders in industry and find out what they are looking for in graduates. A group of inspiring leaders of industry and business will give students an insight into what qualities and skills employers are

looking for in the modern industrial and technological world. A group of speakers will give short presentations on their ideas and philosophies on recruitment and working which will be followed by a Q&A session where students can pose questions to any of the speakers. This interactive and informative session should inspire the students to already start thinking about their careers and where they would ultimately like to utilise their skills once they have graduated.

13 Global warning, Necessary fact or convenient fiction. Is global warming actually occurring and we are on a slippery slope down towards destruction or will industrial advances and nature combine to negate the problems. Should we continue to import green beans from Kenya, stand back and watch as another bit of Argentina is covered in GM soya or put up our solar panels and stand back with a smug smile on our face as we drive to work in our hybrid cars?

Bibliography:

Reading lists will be provided in advance of each lecture along with relevant academic papers and articles.