

London South Bank University

Module Guide

**The Environment, Sustainability
and Politics**

DSS_5_TES



Division of Social Sciences

Level 5

Table of Contents

1.	Module Details	3
2.	Short Description.....	3
3.	Aims of the Module	3
4.	Learning Outcomes.....	4
4.1	Knowledge and Understanding.....	4
4.2	Intellectual Skills.....	4
4.3	Practical Skills	4
4.4	Transferable Skills.....	4
5.	Assessment of the Module.....	5
6.	Feedback	5
7.	Student Evaluation	5
8.	Introduction to Studying the Module	6
8.1	Overview of the Main Content.....	6
8.2	Overview of Types of Classes	6
8.3	Importance of Student Self-Managed Learning Time	6
8.4	Employability	7
9.	The Programme of Teaching, Learning and Assessment	8
10.	Learning Resources	17
11.	NOTES.....	19

Overview of lecture programme

Week 1	Introduction: the Environment, Sustainability and Politics
	Part 1: Theories and Concepts
Week 2	The Politics of Sustainability: definitions and debates
	Part 2: The Global Dimension
Week 3	The International Politics of Environmental Crisis
Week 4	Oil and International Politics
	Part 3: The Local Dimension and Activism
Week 5	Private Tutorial Week – preparing for the assessment
Week 6	Workshop on Sustainability/Environment websites and blogs
Week 7	Towards a Global Knowledge Network for Sustainability: a movement for radical change?
Week 8	Visit to the Crystal Sustainability Hub, London Docklands or the Lea Valley
Week 9	LSBU and Sustainability
Week 10	'We are all Connected': Global Activism
Week 11	Overview of the Module and Essay/Report Writing Skills
Week 12	Private Tutorial Week – preparing for the assessment

1. MODULE DETAILS

Module Title:	The Environment, Sustainability and Politics
Module Level:	5
Module Reference Number:	DSS_5_TES
Credit Value:	20
Student Study Hours:	200
Contact Hours:	45
Private Study Hours:	155
Pre-requisite Learning:	Level 4 modules
Co-requisite Modules:	None
Course(s):	BA Politics, BSc Sociology
Module Coordinator:	Dr Shaminder Takhar
MC Contact Details (Tel, Email, Room)	0207 815 5748, takhars@lsbu.ac.uk, B241
Teaching Team & Contact Details:	Dr Adrian Budd: buddam@lsbu.ac.uk Prof. Ros Wade: wader@lsbu.ac.uk
Subject Area:	Politics, Sociology
Summary of Assessment Method:	1. Critical appraisal of internet sources (1500 words) for 40% of total marks 2. Organisation analysis (2000 words) for 60% of total marks
External Examiner appointed for module:	Prof. Wolfgang Deckers

2. SHORT DESCRIPTION

This module explores the politics of environmental sustainability. It focuses firstly on the defining features of the concept of (environmental) sustainability, challenged by some environmentalists that it is a contradiction, and introduces theoretical approaches to the environment and sustainability, including those promoted by green theory, neo-liberalism and Marxism.

The second part of the module looks at the global dimension of resource issues (including competition for water, food, energy and oil, and the politics of climate change and environmental degradation). The third part explores local aspects of the problem and the response of activists. Throughout the module the activities of organisations and movements involved in environmental sustainability will be explored.

3. AIMS OF THE MODULE

The aims of the module are to:

- provide a grounding in the study of the politics of environmental sustainability;
- develop an understanding of theories and concepts associated with environmental sustainability;

- investigate the emergence of movements and organisations involved in environmental sustainability;
- examine case studies in this field.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

4.1 Knowledge and Understanding

On completion of the module you will have:

- demonstrated knowledge of a range of theoretical tools to understand environmental sustainability;
- demonstrated knowledge of the relationship between theories, issues and practice;
- a comprehensive understanding of the politics of environmental sustainability;
- an understanding of organisations involved in environmental sustainability.

4.2 Intellectual Skills

On completion of the module you will have:

- developed and extended analytical skills acquired at Level 4;
- examined and reviewed key aspects of sustainability;
- evaluated some central propositions and ideas within the area of environmental sustainability;
- investigated the usefulness of theories in the analysis of areas and issues related to environmental sustainability;
- reviewed debates on the relationship between theories and issues.

4.3 Practical Skills

On completion of the module you will have:

- the ability to present, in written and oral form, a sustained, analytical and coherent examination of issues related to environmental sustainability using appropriate vocabulary, evidence, footnotes and bibliography;
- the ability to communicate and sustain an informed argument and analysis on issues related to environmental sustainability and working in small groups;
- enhanced IT Skills;
- demonstrated the ability to synthesise information from a range of sources.

4.4 Transferable Skills

On completion of the module you will have:

- oral communication and written skills;
- skills of critical appraisal of source material (written and visual);
- demonstrated the ability to extract and analyse information;
- demonstrated analytical skills in devising arguments, use of relevant evidence and forming judgements;

- enhanced skills of collaborative work in groups;
- demonstrated effective time management.

5. ASSESSMENT OF THE MODULE

This module will be assessed by the following:

1. Critical appraisal of internet sources (1500 words).

The students are asked to choose 10 websites and then critically summarise the content with reference to a range of aspects, including science, advocacy, activism, ethical consumerism. The choice of websites should be varied to include the local and global [weighting = 40%]

2. Analysis of an organisation that is embedded in the environmental sustainability agenda. The organisation should relate to an issue such as oil, water or food [2000 words] [weighting = 60%]

6. FEEDBACK

The coursework deadlines are published, after discussions between staff, and where appropriate between staff and students, in the first few weeks of the semester.

Feedback will normally be given to students 20 working days after the final submission of an assignment or as advised by their module leader.

General feedback, applying to all students, will also be placed on the module VLE site within 20 working days.

7. STUDENT EVALUATION

Last year around half of students registered on the module completed module evaluation questionnaires. These showed a very positive attitude to the module; for instance 100% of respondents said that they agreed or strongly agreed that their 'experience of this module was good'. As far as the teaching was concerned 1005 of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the lectures and seminars were of a good quality.

The evaluations also contain qualitative comments, including both positive comments and suggestions from students on how they would like to see the module improved. Positive comments included that one student 'enjoyed the environmental aspect of this module the most!', while another liked 'everything about the way the module was structured'. A third liked the 'group activities, use of ICT, such as Youtube videos. Visits to the LSE and the Crystal. Multiple lecturers'.

Regarding more critical comments, the innovative mode of assessment was a little challenging for some students. This will be addressed this year, while more generally the module will be subject to continuous efforts to improve it.

8. INTRODUCTION TO STUDYING THE MODULE

The field of political theory and concepts is wide and this module is necessarily selective. It aims to focus each year on areas of current importance as well as on issues of longer term significance, such as freedom and democracy. With this in mind, the following list is merely indicative, and should not be regarded as a definitive statement of the module's content.

8.1 Overview of the Main Content

The module will cover a range of issues relating to environmental sustainability and will begin with an introductory session that covers the origins and debate around what is known as environmental sustainability.

Given the differing points of view, this module consists of two themes that examine a range of approaches:

1. Concepts and Theories: the environment; sustainability; green theory; alternative approaches including free market and Marxist approaches.
2. Resource Issues and case studies: water wars; food for the planet; energy consumption; the politics of oil; climate change and deforestation; transport and tourism; global security and justice regarding availability of resources; the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); Copenhagen Climate Council; the Fair Trade Movement; Ethical Consumerism and the Environmental Movement; Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES). Not every issue or case study will be covered in each year.

8.2 Overview of Types of Classes

This module will be supported by a Moodle (virtual learning environment) site. While this allows for some flexibility in the teaching and learning pattern, the basic pattern will be a 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour seminar each week. There will be workshops, a field trip to the Crystal Sustainability Hub in London Docklands, and a look at LSBU and sustainability

Students are expected to read from core texts and from a bibliography provided for each topic, and, where appropriate, keep abreast of current developments. Seminars form an integral part of the course and all students are required to attend on a regular basis. They are expected to contribute to seminars by presenting at least one paper (either individually or in pairs) and preparing in advance to discuss others' papers. Seminars will be used to address both the academic content of the module and study skills. Group working, allowing students to develop the core material further and benefit from supervised discussion, will be a recurrent feature of the seminars.

8.3 Importance of Student Self-Managed Learning Time

The importance of your own commitment to your studies cannot be over-stated. The 155 hours of non-contact time should be spent in reading and note-taking around the weekly topics in preparation for the seminars and coursework, and, more generally, to develop your knowledge and understanding. It is to be expected that questions raised and difficulties encountered here will be brought to seminars

for discussion. Occasionally, there will be directed work in preparation for the following week. Examples might include preparing a summary of an article, discussion of issues in groups with a view to presentation of an oral report, and commenting on documentary evidence.

8.4 Employability

This module develops skills that you should find very useful in your future employment by embedding them into the teaching and seminars. In particular it will demonstrate your ability to pursue independent initiatives, to meet deadlines, to search for academic materials, to write in an academic style and to prepare a presentation. Employers look for skills such as group work, written work, ICT skills, presentation and verbal skills which are transferable from the academic world to employment. The module aims to develop your critical thinking/problem solving skills with the following outcomes:

- enhanced job prospects
- effective, self-directed learning
- understanding how you learn
- improved study and career management skills
- improved academic performance
- ability to articulate and evaluate your personal goals and achievements
- transferable skills for lifelong learning and your chosen career

9. THE PROGRAMME OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Week 1	Introduction: the Environment, Sustainability and Politics
	Part 1: Theories and Concepts
Week 2	The Politics of Sustainability: definitions and debates
	Part 2: The Global Dimension
Week 3	The International Politics of Environmental Crisis
Week 4	Oil and International Politics
	Part 3: The Local Dimension and Activism
Week 5	Private Tutorial Week – preparing for the assessment
Week 6	Workshop on Sustainability/Environment websites and blogs
Week 7	Towards a Global Knowledge Network for Sustainability: a movement for radical change?
Week 8	Visit to the Crystal Sustainability Hub, London Docklands or the Lea Valley
Week 9	LSBU and Sustainability
Week 10	'We are all Connected': Global Activism
Week 11	Overview of the Module and Essay/Report Writing Skills
Week 12	Private Tutorial Week – preparing for the assessment

The reading lists for each week provide a choice of materials: you are not expected to read everything listed. The length of the lists also means that the library may not stock all the items, but it does stock core items (meaning that the library's teaching stock is larger than in many UK universities – including many prestigious ones). The limitations facing all libraries mean you should plan your reading in advance and use the reservation system. Please return material in good time to allow others to use it.

If you'd like to read all or most of the items on a topic (eg to prepare an essay or presentation) and have difficulty locating some of them, you can use other university libraries in the London area: I strongly urge you to visit the British Library of Political and Economic Science (located across Waterloo Bridge at the LSE). Additionally, the librarians are happy to have 1:1 sessions to help you search for articles and with other matters – please contact the library directly.

In a rapidly changing situation new journal (and more popular, eg journalistic) articles are constantly appearing. I will post readings on the Moodle site for this module but please also check the journals yourself – many are available electronically via the library website!

Week 1

Lecture	Introduction: the Environment, Sustainability and Politics (Shaminder Takhar)
Seminar	The concept of sustainability requires us to pay attention to the following question: has human activity and its goals exhausted the earth's resources?

In this first session we will focus on an introduction to the module's contents, and consider the key concepts that will be tackled in the module, notably that of sustainability and its relationship to the environment and politics. Environmental sustainability is a topical subject, features in many debates, and has been given considerable attention by the media and governments globally. Environmental sustainability brings to the fore a range of concerns:

- environmental degradation: pollution of the atmosphere, oceans and rivers, levels of waste produced globally
- damage to the rainforest
- climate change and its impact
- over fishing and unsustainable agricultural practices
- overconsumption and economic growth
- cities and transport
- health and poverty

There are major concerns about the future regarding the supply of food, fuel and water. With an increasing global population, attention of activists, businesses and politicians has turned to the politics of oil and the viability of nuclear energy, new energy, and controversial methods such as fracking.

We will watch the following documentary as we consider the seminar question:

Story of Stuff (2007, OFFICIAL Version) 21.25 minutes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorgroiggM>

From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever. Also available on:

<http://storyofstuff.org/movies/>

Some of the time in the first seminar will be devoted to an outline the structure of the module, an explanation of its coherence, discussion of how the seminars and lectures relate to each other.

Private Study

In preparation for later classes you will find it helpful (and enjoyable I hope!) to watch the following short documentaries from The Story of Stuff:

THE STORY OF CHANGE 6.29mins, <http://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-change/>

Can shopping save the world? The Story of Change urges viewers to put down their credit cards and start exercising their citizen muscles to build a more sustainable, just and fulfilling world.

THE STORY OF SOLUTIONS 9.07mins, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cpkrvcsokk>

The Story of Solutions explores how we can move our economy in a more sustainable and just direction, oriented on a new goal. We are currently told to cheer a growing economy -- more roads, more malls, more Stuff! -- even though our health indicators are worsening, income inequality is growing and polar icecaps are melting. But what if we changed the point of the game and the goal of our economy wasn't more, but better -- better health, better jobs and a better chance to survive on the planet?

THE STORY OF BROKE (2011) 8.07mins, <http://bit.ly/storyofbroke>

The US isn't broke; we're the richest country on the planet and a country in which the richest among us are doing exceptionally well. But the truth is, our economy is broken, producing more pollution, greenhouse gasses and garbage than any other country. In these and so many other ways, it just isn't working. But rather than invest in something better, we continue to keep this 'dinosaur economy' on life support with hundreds of billions of dollars of our tax money. The Story of Broke calls for a shift in government spending toward investments in clean, green solutions—renewable energy, safer chemicals and materials, zero waste and more—that can deliver jobs AND a healthier environment. It's time to rebuild the American Dream; but this time, let's build it better.

THE STORY OF ELECTRONICS (2010) 7.47mins, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sw_7i6t_h78

The Story of Electronics explores the high-tech revolution's collateral damage—25 million tons of e-waste and counting, poisoned workers and a public left holding the bill. Host Annie Leonard takes viewers from the mines and factories where our gadgets begin, to the horrific backyard recycling shops in China where many end up. The film concludes with a call for a green 'race to the top' where designers compete to make long-lasting, toxic-free products that are fully and easily recyclable. Our production partner on the electronics film is the Electronics TakeBack Coalition, which promotes green design and responsible recycling in the electronics industry.

THE STORY OF BOTTLED WATER (2010) 8.04mins, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se12y9hSOM0>, <http://storyofbottledwater.org>

The Story of Bottled Water, tells the story of manufactured demand—how to get Americans to buy more than half a billion bottles of water every week when it already flows from the tap. Over five minutes, the film explores the bottled water industry's attacks on tap water and its use of seductive, environmental-themed advertising to cover up the mountains of plastic waste it produces. The film concludes with a call to take back the tap, not only by making a personal commitment to avoid bottled water, but by supporting investments in clean, available tap water for all. Production partners on this film included five leading sustainability groups: Corporate Accountability International, Environmental Working Group, Food & Water Watch, Pacific Institute, and

THE STORY OF COSMETICS (2010) 8.18mins

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfq000AF1i8>, <http://storyofcosmetics.org>

The Story of Cosmetics examines the pervasive use of toxic chemicals in our everyday personal care products, from lipstick to baby shampoo. The Story of Stuff Project reveals the implications for consumer and worker health and the environment, and outlines ways we can move the industry away from hazardous chemicals and towards safer alternatives. The film concludes with a call for viewers to support legislation aimed at ensuring the safety of cosmetics and personal care products.

PART 1: THEORIES and CONCEPTS

Week 2

Lecture The Politics of Sustainability: definitions and debates (Adrian Budd)

Workshop Political responses to climate change: opportunities and threats

This session focuses on key conceptual issues and also explores a central aspect of environmental sustainability, namely climate change. It covers the difficulties associated with the term and its definition. It also examines the debate between a three pronged approach which benefits economy/society/environment and those who view it as a relationship between human society and nature.

The Report 'Ecosystems and Human Well-Being' states the following:

"Humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively in the last 50 years than in any comparable period of human history. We have done this to meet the growing demands for food, fresh water, timber, fiber, and fuel. While changes to ecosystems have enhanced the well-being of billions of people, they have also caused a substantial and largely irreversible loss in diversity of life on Earth, and have strained the capacity of ecosystems to continue providing critical services."

Among the findings of the report:

"Approximately 60% of the services that support life on Earth are being degraded or used unsustainably. The harmful consequences of this degradation could grow significantly worse in the next 50 years.

Only four ecosystem services have been enhanced in the last 50 years: crops, livestock, aquaculture, and the sequestration of carbon.

The capacity of ecosystems to neutralize pollutants, protect us from natural disasters, and control the outbreaks of pests and diseases is declining significantly.

Terrestrial and freshwater systems are reaching the limits of their ability to absorb nitrogen.

Harvesting of fish and other resources from coastal and marine systems is compromising their ability to deliver food in the future."

The 2013 report of the United Nation's intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) concluded that global temperatures could increase anywhere two and four degrees centigrade within the the next 20 to 30 years

Reading Core

- Atkinson, H. 'The Politics of Climate Change: Meeting the Challenge, Making the Change', *Political Insight*, September 2013
- Helliwell, J. et al *World Happiness Report*, New York, Colombia University. Earth Institute (2013), available online
- Morelli, J 'Environmental Sustainability: A Definition for Environmental Professionals', *Journal of Environmental Sustainability*: 1(1) 2011, article 2. Available at: <http://scholarworks.rit.edu/jes/vol1/iss1/2>.

Further

What is sustainability?

- Kiss, K 'Rise and Fall of the Concept Sustainability', *Journal of Environmental Sustainability*, 1(1).
<http://www.journalofenvironmentalsustainability.org>
- Robinson, J 'Squaring the Circle? Some Thoughts on the Idea of Sustainable Development', *Ecological Economics* 48 (2004): 369-384.
- The Sustainability Report website - <http://sustreport.org/major-reports/>

Climate change

- Carter, N . *The Politics of the Environment: Ideas, Activism, Policy* (2007)
- Fitzpatrick, T (ed.) *Understanding the Environment and Social Policy* (2011)
- Foreign Affairs* Special edition on climate change, Sep 2009
- Giddens, A. *The Politics of Climate Change* (2011)
- Kutting, G . *Global Environmental Politics: Concepts, Theories and Case Studies* (2010)
- Stern, N. *The Economics of Climate Change* (2007)

The politics and economics of sustainability

- Connelly, J & Smith, G. *Politics and the Environment: From Theory to Practice* (2003)
- Jackson, T. *Prosperity without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet* (2011)
- Kutting, G. *Global Environmental Politics: Concepts, Theories and Case Studies* (2010)
- UNESCO *From Green Economies to Green Societies*, Paris: UNESCO (2011), available online
- Wilkinson, R & Pickett, K. *The Spirit Level: Why Equality is Better for Everyone* (2010)

PART 2: THE GLOBAL DIMENSION

The world is dominated by issues around water wars; food for the planet; energy consumption; the politics of oil; climate change and deforestation; transport and tourism; global security and justice re: availability of resources. This part of the module will consider some of these.

Week 3

Lecture The international politics of environmental crisis (Adrian Budd)

Seminar To what extent is it accurate to argue that the world faces a threat of environmental degradation because the structure of the world system precludes the radical measures required to tackle it?

**Reading
Core**

Dodds, K. *Global Geopolitics – a critical introduction* (2005) ch6

Further

- Duncan, W. R. et al *World Politics in the 21st Century* (3rd edn. 2006), ch14
 Giddens, A. *The politics of climate change* (2011), chs 8&9
 Goldstein, J. & Pevehouse, J. *International Relations* (7th ed, 2006) ch11
 Greene, O. 'Environmental issues', in J Baylis and S Smith (eds) *The Globalization of World Politics* (3rd edn. 2005)
 Held, D et al *Global Transformations* (1999) ch.8
 Hardin, G 'The environment and climate change', in R Art & R Jervis *International Politics* (8th edn. 2007)
 Kutting, G *Global environmental politics: concepts, theories and case studies* (2010)
 Mansbach, R & Rafferty, K. *Introduction to Global Politics* (2008), ch14
 OXFAM 'Durban platform leaves world sleepwalking towards four degrees warming', (12 Dec 2011, online at <http://www.oxfam.org/en/>)
 Salmon, T. & Imber, M. (eds) *Issues in International Relations* (2nd edn. 2008) ch 11
 Smith, R .et al *International Political Economy in the 21st Century* (2011) ch9

Week 4

Lecture Oil and International Politics (Adrian Budd)

Seminar How important has the quest for influence over oil resources been in motivating the global geo-strategy of the world's major powers over the last century?

**Reading
Core**

Stokes, D. & Raphael, S. *Global Energy Security and American Hegemony* (2010) introduction and ch 1

Further

- Bromley, S. 'The United States and the control of world oil', *Government and Opposition*, 2005
 Bromley, S. 'Blood for oil?', *New Political Economy*, 11(3) 2006
 Clark, W. R. *Petrodollar Warfare* (2005)
 Engdahl, W. *A Century of War: Anglo-American Oil Politics and the New World Order* (1992/2004)
 Kellogg, P. 'A New Great Game', *Contemporary Politics* 2003
 Klare, M. & Volman, D. 'The African "oil rush" and US national security', *Third World Quarterly* 27(4) 2006
 Kleveman, L. *The New Great Game* (2003)
 Levi, M. et al 'Globalizing the energy revolution: how to really win the clean energy race', *Foreign Affairs* Nov/Dec 2010
 Marriott, J. & *The Oil Road: journeys from the Caspian Sea to the City of London*

- Minio-Paluello, M. (2012)
 Victor, D. & Yueh, L. 'The road to energy security', *Foreign Affairs* Jan 2010
 Yergin, D. *The Prize: the epic quest for oil, money and power* (paperback edition 2009)
 Yergin, D. *The Quest: energy, security, and the remaking of the modern world* (revised edition 2012)

PART 3: THE LOCAL DIMENSION AND ACTIVISM

Week 5

Private tutorial week – preparing for the assessment (Shaminder Takhar)

There are no lectures, workshops or seminars this week. You are strongly advised to make an appointment with the module coordinator to discuss the assessments.

Week 6

Workshop Blogging Sites on Sustainability and Environment Issues (Shaminder Takhar)

The media is full of issues related to sustainability and the environment:

- deforestation
- pollution of air and water
- carbon emissions
- global warming and climate change
- waste disposal including toxic waste
- health related to pollution and toxic materials for example in outsourcing the manufacturing of electronic goods for the west.
- overconsumption of goods and the 'throw away' society.

Given the above, this session asks you to carry out research into blogging sites which are devoted to this area. You may choose a particular area that you are interested in and make notes on the type of blogs, the content, the debates and knowledge generated. Additionally through your research examine whether global aspects of poverty are raised.

This workshop will be done in a computer lab and will be followed by a discussion related to the findings.

Examples of blogs

The Guardian online has a blog on the environment, climate change and global warming:

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/blog+global-development/environmental-sustainability>

The Guardian also has a Poverty Blog related to issues of environmental sustainability:

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters+environmental-sustainability>

Week 7

Lecture/Workshop Towards a global knowledge network for sustainability- a movement for radical change? (Ros Wade)

Reading

Core

Parker, J. & Wade, R (eds.) *Journeys around Education for Sustainability* (2009), ch 1

Further

Edwards, A. *The Sustainability Revolution* (2005), ch 1
Sterling, S et al (eds) *The Sustainable University* (2013), chs 2 & 4

Week 8

Visit 'The Crystal' sustainable cities centre/Lea Valley (Edwin Shaw)

This week we will visit an important sustainability centre in east London (<http://www.thecrystal.org/>). It is an initiative of the Siemens company and it will be interesting to explore both the strength and limitations of private sector proposals to address environmental problems.

(An alternative visit, to the Lea Valley in East London, may replace the Crystal Centre visit)

Week 9

Workshop LSBU and Sustainability (Adrian Budd)

This session provides an opportunity for you to think about the application of concepts and theories covered in the module. We hope that it encourages you to engage actively with LSBU's attempts to pursue a sustainability agenda. Recent LSBU initiatives include the 'Go Green' week, the 'Fairtrade Fortnight', and the establishment of a new student society, 'Green Beans'. In this session you may want to consider your contribution to the development of the LSBU Sustainability website and the LSBU Sustainability strategy.

The extent to which LSBU successfully pursues the sustainability agenda is assessed by the 'People and Planet' pressure group which produces the annual Green League tables for UK universities. In considering LSBU's contribution to sustainability we should also note and analyse LSBU's physical location, transport links, suppliers, etc. One aspect of the workshop will be how we devise appropriate methodologies to measure sustainability.

Reading

Core

People and Planet website on its 'University League', a measure of universities' commitment to the sustainability, environmental and ethical agenda:
<http://peopleandplanet.org/university-league>

Further

LSBU website, 'sustainability' page: <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/about-us/policies-and-initiatives/sustainability>. Please click on the 'plans and policies' menu

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) website, 'sustainability hub':

<http://www.architecture.com/sustainabilityhub/sustainabilityhub.aspx>

Transport for London website, 'sustainable development' page:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/8127.aspx>

London Sustainable Development Commission website: <http://www.londonsdc.org/>

Week 10

Lecture	'We are all connected': global dimensions of sustainability (Shaminder Takhar)
Seminar	How far have we come with reference to the Millennium Development Goals?

This session looks at how we are all connected by addressing the global environmental, social and economic challenges we face. We will also look at the methods, innovations and approaches that could lead to a more sustainable global society. This will be covered in relation to one of the biggest challenges facing the world - the eradication of poverty which forms the building block from which sustainable development is possible. However, the challenge is immense in the face of growing consumerism, overconsumption, the developing world used for outsourcing and as a dumping ground for waste material. Thus it is not surprising that we are faced with ecological crises.

After the setting of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2000, how far have we come to achieving the targets by 2015? The 2015 UN Summit on the MDG adopted a global action plan to achieve eight anti-poverty goals. The MDG included:

- eradicating extreme poverty and hunger;
- achieving universal primary education;
- promoting gender equality and empowering women;
- reducing child mortality;
- improving maternal health;
- combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases;
- ensuring environmental sustainability.

Source: <https://www.un.org/en/globalissues/development/index.shtml>

Reading

Core

The Guardian blog 'Sustainable development is the only way forward', at <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/poverty-matters/2012/may/21/sustainable-development-shape-world-to-come>

Further

Desai, V. & Potter, R.	<i>The Arnold Companion to Development Studies</i> (2000), pp3-12, 20-27, 41-49, 139-145, 183-186.
George Ingram	Brookings Institution Blog, 'Eliminate Poverty - Sustainable Development' (2013), http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/05/31-eliminating-poverty-sustainable-development-ingram#
United Nations	Global Issues, https://www.un.org/en/globalissues/development/index.shtml
United Nations	Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20–22 June 2012, available at http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/814UNCSD%20REPORT%20final%20revs.pdf
United Nations	'We can end poverty. Millenium Development Goals and Beyond 2015' http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

United Nations	<i>A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty And Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development</i> (2013)
UN Development Programme	<i>Human Development Reports</i> , available at http://hdr.undp.org/en
World Bank	<i>World Development Report</i> , annual, available at http://www.worldbank.org/

Week 11

Lecture	Overview of the Module and Essay/Report Writing Skills (Shaminder Takhar)
Seminar	'Environmental catastrophe looms over the human race, but there is little evidence that the dominant players in the international system have the capabilities to avert it'. Discuss.

This lecture brings together the themes and issues raised throughout the Module, and concludes by discussing some of the pressing issues in public and academic debates about the environment, sustainability and politics. The readings for all the above will be relevant, but in addition, it will be useful also to look at one or more of the following texts for this lecture and discussion.

In the seminar we will discuss:

- (a) issues drawn from the Module as a whole and relating to the major themes raised in the lectures and your reading
- (b) any issues you may wish to have further clarified
- (c) questions and concerns regarding the assessments.

Study Skills

Chapter 10 'Critical Analytical Thinking' in Cottrell, S. (2003) *The Study Skills Handbooks*, Palgrave Study Guides, Palgrave Macmillan.

Chapter 6: 'How to Write Essays' in Northedge, A. (1990) *The Good Study Guide*, Open University Press.

Week 12

Private tutorial week – preparing for the assessment (Shaminder Takhar)

There are no lectures, workshops or seminars this week. As we near the end of the module and the deadline for coursework two, you are strongly advised to make an appointment with the module coordinator (or other tutor) to discuss your work.

10. LEARNING RESOURCES

Reading List

<http://readinglists.lsbu.ac.uk/lists/9A5B7A81-24D1-E257-3220-1C41CD356494.html>

Academic Journals

It will be useful to look in the Library for relevant journals that cover the range of topics addressed in this Module. By looking at copies of particular journals over a period of a few years you can easily come across articles of direct relevance to particular topics. When preparing yourself for seminar topics and/or for the final assessment you will find it useful to look through these journals for relevant articles. One such journal is the *Journal of Environmental Sustainability*.

Newspapers

You are encouraged to read at least one quality daily newspaper, such as *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *The Independent* and *The Daily Telegraph*. All carry items relevant to the topics covered in this Module. There is, of course, a long list of other relevant daily newspapers and weekly popular publications, such as *The Economist*.

Books

Most of the books listed are in the Library. But given the pressures on the Library, it is likely that books will be in heavy demand. It is essential therefore that you start planning your work in advance and reserve the books that you need if necessary. It is also useful to look for books in the same class mark in the Library to see if they are related to the topics that we are covering. There are suggestions below about some books that you may consider purchasing in order to facilitate your work for this and related modules.

Make sure you use the Library as fully as you can, since it is essential that you read at least some of the Core Reading for each of the sessions. Organise your time so that you can read something for this Module each week. Several of the books listed under Core Reading will be placed on the reserved list in the Library.

Box of Broadcasts Resource

Access to a wide range of off-air recordings including films and documentaries can be had using the library resource 'Box of Broadcasts'. All LSBU students have access to this via the Library catalogue which is easy. Click on this link: <http://bobnational.net/>

11. NOTES