

Exploring Human Geographies

UEL_4_EXG.1

School of Law and Social Sciences

Level 4



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1. MODULE DETAILS

Module Title:	Exploring Human Geographies
Module Level:	4
Module Reference Number:	UEL_4_EXG
Credit Value:	20 Cat Points
Student Study Hours:	200
Contact Hours:	45
Private Study Hours:	155
Pre-requisite Learning (If applicable):	None
Co-requisite Modules (If applicable):	None
Course(s):	BA (Hons) Human Geography – and combinations with Planning, Tourism or Housing BA (Hons)
Year and Semester	Year 1, Semester 1
Module Coordinator:	Dr Kevin Milburn, Room BR158B
Contact Details	milburnk@lsbu.ac.uk
Teaching Team & Contact Details (If applicable):	Dr Sam Johnson-Schlee, BR161 johnss32@lsbu.ac.uk
Subject Area:	Human Geography
Summary of Assessment Method:	100% Coursework

2. SHORT DESCRIPTION

This module introduces students to the main themes, topics and sub-disciplines of human geography and the contribution a geographical imagination brings to our understanding of social and environmental worlds.

3. AIMS OF THE MODULE

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of the subject matter and core concepts of contemporary academic human geography. Students will be introduced to key themes, such as globalization, landscape, development and nature, along with important tensions, such as local-global and society-space. The module also engages with the major sub-disciplinary areas of human geography, such as social and cultural, economic, political, urban and rural, and environmental geography. The relevance of human geography to public policy will also be explored. The module also helps to develop students writing skills and autonomous learning

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

4.1 Knowledge and Understanding

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the knowledges, approaches and terminologies of academic human geography and appreciate the open and ongoing debates and reformulations in the subject area.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major sub-disciplinary areas in human geography and how they seek to inform public policy. The relevance and application of human geographical knowledges to professional practice, policy and business development strategies in specialist subjects areas such as planning, tourism or housing.
- Have a good understanding of the concept of spatial variation and the spatial patterning of human and environmental phenomena, particularly the ways in which economic, political and social processes are uneven and unequal and how these geographies reflect, mediate and reproduce social relations
- Have a good understanding of the contested, dynamic and plural nature of the academic discipline of human geography

4.2 Intellectual and Research Skills

Students will develop intellectual and research skills so that they can:

- Analyse, describe and comment on the merits of geographical research and spatial data in an informed and critical manner, demonstrating the ability to assess the merits of contrasting theories, concepts and explanations.
- Can write a structured essay that can articulate and evaluate academic human geographical thought and approaches to spatial analysis.
- Can collect information from a variety of authoritative sources to form informed responses to questions under timed pressure.

4.3 Practical Skills

- Communicate effectively in written, graphic, oral and multi-media forms in ways which are appropriate to the relevant audience and which respect intellectual property and copyright
- Work autonomously and manage one's own time, behaviour, motivation and initiative

4.4 Transferable Skills

- Is aware of their capabilities in key areas and engages in development activity through guided self-direction.

5. ASSESSMENT OF THE MODULE

The assessment for the module is:

CW1: Essay, 1,500 words (50% of assessment). This will develop students' essay skills and enable them to reveal their knowledge of human geography subject area.

This essay must be submitted through **Moodle** (the University Virtual learning Environment) by **Friday 10th January 2020**.

Work cannot be submitted by post or e-mail, or to individual tutors.

CW2: Multiple Choice Class Test (50% of assessment). This will test students' understanding of the range of topic areas and concepts introduced by the module. There will be 40 multiple choice questions and two questions requiring a longer answer (approx. one paragraph), with those two questions each being worth five marks. This 42 question test will take place in the class on **Wednesday 15th January 2020**

Assessment Criteria

Please consult the Exploring Human Geographies CW1 Assessment Brief on Moodle for full details on the assessment criteria for the essay. This brief also outlines what you need to do to achieve good marks in the different criteria.

6. FEEDBACK

Students will receive written feedback normally within 15 days from the date of submission, which will be made through the Moodle system. A sample will also be looked at by an external examiner for evaluation and approval.

7. INTRODUCTION TO STUDYING THE MODULE

7.1 Overview of the Main Content

An introduction to key concepts and tensions in human geography:

- space and place
- local-global
- society and space
- nature and landscape
- globalization and development
- the global North and the global South
- self and other
- human-non-human
- masculinity-femininity

Themes and issues in the sub-disciplines of human geography:

- Economic geographies - globalization and the economic geographies of finance, production and consumption;
- Political geography – geopolitics, nation states and new spaces of political integration and fragmentation;
- Social geographies of difference – ethnicities and sexualities;
- Urban geography – neo-liberal cities, social inequalities and spatial divides;
- Rural geographies – countryside lives beyond farming;
- Environmental challenges: geographies of resources, energy, demography and climate change.

Practicing human geography and the relevance of human geographical knowledge for public policy and public dissent.

7.2 Overview of Types of Classes

The module will be delivered through a combination of lectures and small group discussions. Students will be expected to come to seminar sessions prepared to discuss readings and ideas with their tutors and colleagues.

7.3 Importance of Student Self-Managed Learning Time

It is important that students manage their own study time outside of the taught programme. The anticipated teaching and learning will be achieved through the following indicative hours of activity:

Contact hours:	36
Student managed learning hours: (including e-learning)	164 200

7.4 Employability

Students successfully completing this module will have developed a series of skills that will be valued by employers, in particular how to work autonomously and manage time and motivation, as well as work under pressure.

8. THE PROGRAMME OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Week 1	Introduction – Welcome to Geography! (KM)
Week 2	Globalisation and Transnational Corporations (KM)
Week 3	Cities, Regions and Economies (KM)
Week 4	Moral Geographies: Places of Protest, Spaces of Resistance (KM)
Week 5	Geographies of Development (KM)
Week 6	Geographies of Migration (KM)
Week 7	No class (Cornwall field trip)
Week 8	Gender and Sexuality (SJ-S)
Week 9	Materialities and Commodities (SJ-S)
Week 10	Geopolitics and Comparative Geographies (SJ-S)
Week 11	Geographies of Cyberspace (SJ-S)
Week 12	Essay Surgery/Drop-in Session (SJ-S)
Week 13	In-Class Multiple Choice Test (KM)

9. STUDENT EVALUATION

This module only ran for the first time last year. It received good feedback and consequently there are no major changes proposed to the module and it will continue to build upon past good practice.

10. LEARNING RESOURCES

Moodle – The Virtual Learning Environment

This module, like all University modules, is supported by its own Moodle site.

10.1 Core Materials

Cloke, P., Crang, P and Goodwin, M (eds) (2013) *Introducing Human Geographies (Third Edition)*. London: Routledge

Daniels, P., Bradshaw, M., Shaw, D and Sidaway, J (eds) (2016) *An Introduction to Human Geography*. London: Pearson

Gregory, D., Johnston, R., Pratt, G and Watts, M (eds) (2009) *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. London: Blackwell-Wiley

Clifford, N.C., et al (eds) (2009) *Key Concepts in Geography*. London: Sage.

Hubbard P. et al (2002) *Thinking Geographically*. New York, Continuum

Jones, A. (2012) *Human Geography: The Basics*. London: Routledge

10.2 Other Materials

Journals

Area

Geoforum

Geography Compass

Progress in Human Geography

Social & Cultural Geography