



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD000769	Version: 3 Date Amended: 17/Mar/2023
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1. Module Title
Environment, Nature and Society

2a. Module Leader
David Skinner

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

Environment, Nature and Society explores the relationship between social and natural worlds and, in the process, considers sociological debates about how best to engage with biological knowledge. You will address the following interlocking questions: - How can sociological approaches take account of the ways in which people are at once social and biological beings? How can we fully integrate non-humans into an account of social life and social change? How are recent developments in the life sciences challenging existing views and experiences of group identity, self, life and kinship? What are the likely social causes and consequences of world-wide environmental catastrophe? To answer these questions, you will be required to consider both the future of the discipline of Sociology and the future of society.

6b. Outline Content

The module covers three substantive topics:

1. Humans and animals.
2. The social and political implications of developments in the new life sciences.
3. The Sociology of climate and ecological catastrophe.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

On-line Module Guide Module Website

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)

No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Evaluate and apply differing accounts of the relationships between nature and society and between biological and sociological knowledge.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Through analysis of case study material, consider the social, political and cultural implications of new forms of scientific knowledge and practice about nature and biology.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Engage with sociological and policy issues through sustained engagement with a research site.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply sociological knowledge and understanding to issues of ethics, policy and politics.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2025/6	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	24	1-4	Lecture/seminars - 22 hours workshop (2 hours per week). Site visits equivalent to 2 hours = 24 hours total
Other teacher managed learning	0	N/A	N/A
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Student learning – 126 hours
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Portfolio of work 2,500 words					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above

(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]