Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD008718	**Version:** 1 **Date Amended:** 29/Mar/2022

1. Module Title
Policy, Globalisation, and Economics of Sustainability

2a. Module Leader
Nigel Cooper

2b. School
School of Life Sciences at Anglia Ruskin University

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

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

Sustainable development depends on people worldwide working together towards a common goal, of ensuring the survival of the planet for future generations. However, there are hugely competing needs at all levels. It is essential to understand what these forces are, and how governments and businesses around the world compete for diminishing resources, based on the needs of their populations, infrastructure, politics and economics. Governments are funded by the taxes they raise from businesses and the individuals that work for them and so there is both a link and a conflict between the resource needs of businesses and the needs of the population and the environment they live in. The United Nations has coalesced its ideas into the 17 Sustainable Development Goals – we shall discuss whether these are attainable, and what the conflicting demands are for meeting these goals.

It is hugely important for scientists in the field of sustainability to understand how to communicate science to different audiences, to negotiate amid these conflicting forces, and to arrive at solutions which can be agreed by everyone. In this module, we shall discuss aspects of the public understanding of science and the importance of evidence-based communication; develop an awareness of environmental economics, such as the uses of ecosystems services, and aspects such as carbon offsetting; be aware of aspects of environmental ethics, regulations and law; develop an understanding of environmental psychology and effective communication; and enhance your understanding of politics, globalisation, and international development and how these affect the drive to a sustainable future. We shall also review the use of the sustainable development (SD) tools, which allow us to assess the impact of interventions, and apply these to case studies.

6b. Outline Content

- History of economics and policy
- Public understanding of science
- Communication
- Planetary boundaries and limits
- Politics
- Regulation and law
- Environmental economics
- Environmental ethics
- Environmental psychology
- Behaviour
- International Development
- SD tools - risk assessment, life-cycle assessment, benefit-cost analysis, ecosystem-services valuation, integrated assessment models, sustainable impact assessment, environmental justice, and present and future scenario tools.

6c. Key Texts/Literature
The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources
None

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	Analyse the cultural, political and economic factors which compete in the need for a sustainable future.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Discuss the validity of the Sustainable Development Goals in light of current scientific evidence.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate effective communication in a variety of forms needed to bring about behavioural change in relation to economic, business and political constraints
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critique and evaluate the various policies which are introduced in order to bring about a sustainable future and apply the relevant SD tools to exemplar case studies.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	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	22	1-2	11 x 2 hours lectures
Other teacher managed learning	14	1-4	11 x 1 hour workshops + 3 hours revision
Student managed learning	114	1-4	Preparation for lectures, workshops, assessments and reading
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
3000 word portfolio of case studies					

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]