

Module code: MOD009022	Version: 2 Date Amended: 09/Mar/2023
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1. Module Title
A History of Now

2a. Module Leader
Lucy Bland

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

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

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) History BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

TV and radio news, the press, and social media report daily on momentous concerns: the war in Ukraine, Covid-19, the climate crisis, Black Lives Matter, the pulling down of statues, Brexit, Northern Ireland, the abortion controversy and so on. But it is rare for the wider picture – the historical backdrop, the long view – to be given. These issues do not come from nowhere, nor are they 'new'. Some have a long history, for example pandemics have been with us for centuries. You will examine the historical background to issues such as these by exploring their roots and precedents. It will enable you to understand these concerns more fully and thereby be able to engage more knowledgeably in debates concerning these pressing issues of the day.

6b. Outline Content

Topics might include:

Politics of Race and Nation:

- Black Lives Matter
- Globalisation and the rise of the East
- Russia and the World
- Populism, the media and 'fake news'
- Northern Ireland

Gender Politics:

- #MeToo + Trans issues
- Abortion past and present

Environmental Concerns:

- Climate Crisis
- Pandemics: from the Black Death and Spanish Flu to Covid-19

Inequalities, Past, Present and Future:

- Economic and Social Inequalities
- Artificial Intelligence

NB. Contents will change somewhat from year to year, depending on the key issues of the day.

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	Explain the background and precedents to certain key issues of the day.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand how not taking the 'long view' of these issues can misinform the public, as well as the media, politicians and policy makers.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Organise and present evidence and research in a way that is accessible and comprehensive.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Construct a written argument and support it effectively with relevant evidence.
5	Knowledge and Understanding	Understand the issues and problems that museums face and work collectively in small groups to provide possible solutions.

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	24	1-4	Lecture 2 hrs x 12 weeks
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-5	Seminar 1 hr x 12 weeks
Student managed learning	264	1-5	Student managed learning, seminar preparation and assignment writing and research for assessments including live brief
TOTAL:	300		

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	25 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Essay - 1,500 words

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1, 2, 3, 5	50 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Group Project - equivalent to 3,000 words

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
012	Coursework	2-5	25 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Individual Report/Diary - 1,500 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]