



Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD009594	Version: 1 Date Amended: 30/Oct/2023
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1. Module Title
Woke Wars

2a. Module Leader
Patricia MacCormack

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

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

3a. Level
5

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:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module addresses key topics in what is known as the 'Culture Wars'. In this module you will become familiar with areas currently contested between different arguing camps around social justice, identity, inclusivity and attaining a society which recognises difference, including gender, race, sexuality, ability, class and economic status, species and ecology. In this course you will explore the linguistic and philosophical techniques of differing arguments around the role of power and prejudice invested in discussions on what it means to be 'woke', and specifically how these arguments fall into either/or structures which prevent full ethical inclusivity. By studying the diversity of definitions of differences, and the structures of language which bring them into being, you can look at the elements involved in the way society attributes value, and justice, to different individuals. The course will analyse language structures of difference from linguistic signs, philosophical discussions, and a variety of media including social media, mainstream news, as well as more experimental and personal narratives from different people telling their stories and 'speaking truth to power'. You will be able to reveal the structures of power which benefit from fuelling arguments, and recognise the deeper value of diversity, justice and inclusivity.

6b. Outline Content

- What are the Culture Wars? Introduction to diversity and activism
- Gender difference
- BIPoC identity (black, indigenous, people of colour) and decolonization
- LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual +) and heteronormativity
- Animal rights/vegan abolitionism
- Disability and ableism
- Poverty and class discrimination
- Intersectionality
- Deprivileging and the redundancy of inclusivity
- Ecology and earth rights
- Death Studies: Precarity, killability and vulnerability

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	Recognise and understand the linguistic and theoretical structures which constitute identities of difference and how they conflict with lived experience of otherness
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Become familiar with a range of contemporary figures of difference and apprehend the theoretical, historical and epistemological construction of various identities and how these challenge monolithic power
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop a nuanced grasp of diversity and be able to apply this to a deeper understanding of interpreting current discursive discussions in an ethical and sensitive manner
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Form arguments and construct discussions which are reflective, complex and which challenge the current either/or structures around difference, so as to intellectually and practically create more inclusive and just spaces.

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	12	1-2	12 x 1-hour lecture weekly
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	12 x 1-hour seminar weekly
Student managed learning	126	3-4	Preparatory readings, further research, preparation of presentations and essays
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 (%)
3000 word Essay					

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]