

Module code: MOD011208	Version: 1 Date Amended: 17/Jun/2025
-------------------------------	--

1. Module Title
Contemporary Issues in Food Production

2a. Module Leader
Roy Browne

2b. School
Writtle School of Agriculture, Animal and Environmental Sciences

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

In this module, you'll have the opportunity to discuss some of the current and most pressing challenges facing crop and animal production, both in the UK and on a global scale. You'll apply the knowledge and skills you've gained throughout the course to critically assess current crop and livestock production systems such as climate change, sustainability and water use, food security, fluctuating markets, small vs. large scale production, genetic modification, the food vs. fuel debate and the power of consumer choice. Using current case studies in the media today, topical and contentious issues demanding urgent attention, you'll take part in discussion and debate to encourage the formulation and communication of substantiated arguments, critical thinking and listening skills. You'll learn how to write balanced arguments and develop your ability to evaluate risks and opportunities, your ability to consider opposing viewpoints from stakeholders and arguments and debate these reinforcing your public speaking skills. By the end of this module, you'll be more confident in your ability to communicate effectively and learn how to critically read, gather and evaluate information from a wide range of resources, including journals, newspapers, books, magazines and the internet.

6b. Outline Content

The teaching sessions will include lectures, seminars and the assessed debate covering areas such as climate change, water/drought issues, sustainability, markets, food security, food versus fuel, genetic modification, challenges in crop nutrition and fertilisers and public perception of agriculture. The most pressing challenges facing food production systems today in the context of a changing climate and growing population, urbanization and the need for good nutrition

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	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Critically analyse current global issues in food production
2	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Evaluate, estimate, and determine food production under given future political, economic, social and environmental scenarios.
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Construct, communicate and defend an evidence-based argument on contentious agrifood issues with critical engagement of opposing views Enter text here.

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	30	1-3	Weekly 2-3 hour lectures
Other teacher managed learning	6	1-3	6 x 1 hour seminars - discussions and debates inclusive of formative practice events
Student managed learning	114	1-3	Self-directed and managed learning and research incorporating preparation for lectures and assessment
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Practical	1-3	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
Approx 20-30 min per student in the form of a debate or formal round table discussion or its equivalent with written summary					

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]