

Module Proforma: Climate, Change and Culture

Module full title	Climate, Change and Culture
Proposed Module Code	5CLST003W
Credit level	Level 5
Length	Semester
UK credit value	20
ECTS credit value	10
College	Liberal Arts and Sciences
School	Humanities
Host programme of study	<i>None defined</i>
Progression and assessment board	HUMNTS - UG PAB -English/Creative Writing/Theatre
Pre-requisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Study abroad	Yes
Special features	N/A
Access restrictions	None
Are the module learning outcomes delivered, assessed or supported through an arrangement with organisation(s) other than the University of Westminster:	No
Summary of module content	This module examines both the impact of climate change on cultural expression, and of cultural texts on our attitudes towards the environment. To facilitate these two perspectives, the module intersperses weeks on contemporary climate fiction (cli-fi) with weeks on other, broader texts, from ancient to modern: theatre, visual art, music and cinema. The module will equip students with an ecocritical vocabulary and the facility and opportunity to employ that vocabulary across a range of media and forms.

Module aims

This module aims to:

- develop a critical understanding of the historical relationship between culture and the environment;
- develop a critical understanding of recent debates about climate change and culture;
- examine creative and imaginative representations of climate and environment;
- develop skills in analysing across media and forms.

Assessment Methods

Rank	Assessment type	Assessment name	Weighting	Minimum mark required	Qualifying set (where the minimum mark required applies across multiple assessments)
	Practical Coursework	Podcast	100		

Synoptic assessment

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the module, students will be able to:

LO1: undertake research into a particular aspect of culture;

LO2: demonstrate a critical understanding of the history of the relationship between culture and the environment;

LO3: demonstrate a critical understanding of current debates about the meaning and status of the novel and climate change;

LO4: apply ecocritical understanding across a variety of media and forms;

LO5: communicate clearly and effectively across several registers in audio / visual form.

Course outcomes the module contributes to

L5.3 Utilise effective and appropriate communication strategies

L5.4 Undertake transdisciplinary analysis of challenges in culture, environment and society

L5.6 Analyse environmental issues through the lens of intersectionality and inequalities

L5.7 Construct creative responses to contemporary challenges

Indicative syllabus content

- Religious and mythical texts
- Contemporary climate fictions
- Romanticism
- Children's fictions
- Historical representations
- Film, drama and music

Teaching and learning methods

The module is seminar-based. Learning and teaching will take place in a blended mode with pre-recorded and other material provided on Blackboard for self-study and seminar/workshop preparation. The seminars will comprise a variety of activities, including seminar discussion, tutor presentation, group-based work, in-class exercises, formative feedback, and student presentations. One seminar will be a workshop on producing a podcast and there will be opportunities to research, design, or record short elements of longer podcasts in seminar time. There may also be study visits to relevant locations, exhibitions, film screenings, or public performances.

Activity type	Category	Student learning and teaching hours *
Lecture	Scheduled	
Seminar	Scheduled	22
Tutorial	Scheduled	1
Project supervisor	Scheduled	
Demonstration	Scheduled	
Practical classes and workshops	Scheduled	
Supervised time in studio/workshop	Scheduled	
Fieldwork	Scheduled	
External visits	Scheduled	
Work based learning	Scheduled	
Scheduled online learning	Scheduled	
Other learning	Scheduled	
Total scheduled		23
Placement	Placement	
Independent study	Independent	177
Total student learning and teaching hours		200

* hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change

This is a suggested breakdown of independent study hours:

Reading/watching/listening in preparation for seminars - 50 hrs

Research - 45 hours

Production of formative assessments – 60 hours

Selection and editing of final assessments 22

Assessment rationale: Why has this assessment been used for this module?

This module is assessed by a podcast (100%). The podcast is designed to allow students to demonstrate critical and practical development during the module. Short podcasts will be produced during the semester in response to seminar discussion, with students adding examples from their own research and cultural exploration. Formative feedback will allow for students to select their best three short podcast responses as one for final submission, avoiding over-burden of assessment at the end of the module. Podcast content may include: critical reflections upon set reading; short pieces of research which demonstrate understanding of the ecocritical debates around the module texts, or audio reviews of cultural works outside the module that resonate with the week's themes. Inclusivity is assured by engagement with different media and student choice of case studies, areas, or issues on which to focus in their work.

Assessment criteria: What criteria will be used to assess my work on this module?

Detailed guidance and criteria will be provided on the module Blackboard page. These criteria align with the University's grade descriptors which are located here: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/guides-and-policies/assessment-guidelines>

Generally, the podcast will be assessed as a whole on the extent to which it:

- shows critical engagement with the curriculum (LO2, LO3);
- gives evidence of independent research into the issues covered by the module (LO1);
- shows critical understanding of the relationship between culture and the environment (LO2);
- communicates clearly and effectively in a register appropriate to the podcast form (LO4, LO5).

How will this module enhance employability?

This module enables students to develop their communication skills in producing both formal and informal texts – a key graduate skill for Humanities students. It also develops awareness of the cultural significance of environment and the environmental significance of culture, which are increasingly seen as crucial considerations in a variety of public-sector, private-sector, and not-for-profit employment scenarios.

Link to the online reading list

Reading Lists are available on Blackboard.

Please check Blackboard for reading list.
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