

Module Details	
Module Title	Issues and Innovations
Module Code	BIC6012-A
Academic Year	2022/3
Credits	10
School	UoB International College
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 6

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	50
Directed Study	50

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Non-Standard Academic Year
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 3

Module Aims
<p>This research-engaged and cross-disciplinary module introduces students to a range of contemporary issues, technological advancements and other 'disruptive' factors which have the potential to impact multiple fields of study, sections of society and areas of industry. Students will be supported to research a current issue or innovation from different viewpoints and to critically examine the real or potential impact on practice in their intended (or related) field of postgraduate study.</p> <p>The module also aims to foster original and entrepreneurial thinking among students by supporting them to consider how practice in their intended field of study could be enhanced through the innovations discussed and/or how the impact caused by a particular issue could be minimised.</p>

Outline Syllabus

The contemporary nature of this module means that topics discussed may be adapted to reflect current affairs and/or particular areas of study/research interest across the University. However, the below gives a sense of the nature of topics around which the module will be framed:

- * Internationalisation and globalisation
- * International alliances and national independence - Brexit, Scottish Independence
- * Financial/economic issues - the cost of living, poverty, unemployment, regional inequality in funding
- * Post-18 education
- * Employment and entrepreneurship - zero-hours contracts, gig economy, hidden/shadow economy, start-ups
- * Corporate social responsibility and business ethics
- * Health - the mental health crisis, NHS funding, ageing population, obesity
- * The COVID-19 pandemic response, impact, innovation and change in practice
- * Environmental issues - climate change, carbon emissions, wildlife preservation, sustainability
- * Technological advancements - e.g. from MIT's annual list of breakthrough technologies - artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality, biometrics, digital currency, hyper-personalised, anti-ageing medicine, differential privacy etc.
- * Issues in the digital space - censorship, intellectual property, privacy, anonymity, credibility/"fake news", data protection, cyberbullying/trolling

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
LO1	Critically analyse a contemporary issue and/or innovation from different disciplinary perspectives.
LO2	Discuss how an issue and/or innovation has disrupted theory or practice in a particular field of study or employment.
LO3	Demonstrate entrepreneurial thinking by outlining clear and reasoned solutions to contemporary issues, and/or ways to harness opportunities presented by technological advancements, in a chosen sector.
LO4	Critically reflect on the potential impact of solutions and/or opportunities presented and how these might be extended, if positive, or minimised, if negative.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

In addition to the issues/innovations studied, the following academic/transferrable skills will also be developed:

- * Looking at topics from different disciplinary perspectives
- * Finding appropriate academic sources
- * Synthesising information from multiple sources
- * Presenting clear arguments in speech and writing
- * Debating skills
- * Argument/counter-argument/refutation

Working in groups of up to eighteen, students learn via tutor-led seminars and practical sessions. The teaching approach places considerable emphasis on interactivity between teacher and students, and between individual students within the group. This will be facilitated by the range of activities introduced into classes, the use of group and pair work, particularly in practical work. During this module, students spend 50 hours in seminar-style classes and a further 50 hours in directed self-study.

Student progress will be closely monitored by both subject staff and each student's Personal Tutor. Personal Tutors will facilitate one-to-one sessions with students during which they are encouraged to reflect on their progress in meeting their objectives. This monitoring will provide tailored learner support in specific, identified areas for development.

The summative assessment for the module is in two parts. The first part requires students to produce a poster in groups analysing a contemporary issue or innovation from different disciplinary perspectives. This encourages students to consider topics from different viewpoints and to work together to summarise these in a single piece of work. In the second summative assessment, students will work individually to produce a report looking at a particular issue or innovation in the context of a chosen area of academia or industry.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Presentation	Group poster analysing a contemporary issue or innovation from different disciplinary perspectives	20%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Case study report examining an issue or innovation and its impact in a chosen sector (2000 words)	80%

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

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