

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: HUMAN VARIATION, ADAPTATION, AND ECOLOGY
Status: Definitive
Code: **4314NATSCI** (128142)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Biological and Environmental Sciences
Teaching School/Faculty: Biological and Environmental Sciences

Team	Leader
Laura Buck	Y
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Academic Level: FHEQ4 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 51
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 149

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22
Off Site	4
Practical	12
Workshop	11

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Test	Test	Online test	40	
Exam	Exam	Exam	60	2

Aims

This module is an introduction to the extent and pattern of human variation and its relationship with human ecology. The course will focus on human biological and cultural diversity and how these characteristics make humans such an adaptable species. Students will be introduced to the way in which variation is patterned in our species, concepts of adaptive vs. neutral variation, and the diverse mechanisms of human adaptation. The module will cover such current topics as human adaptability and resilience in the Anthropocene and the ethics and societal impact of the study of human diversity.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Describe the dichotomy between great human diversity and the close relationship between all living people
- 2 Distinguish between adaptive and neutral variation and understand the main mechanisms underlying both
- 3 Recognise and explain the ecological and cultural stressors that have shaped human adaptation
- 4 Identify the main methods used in measuring and analysing human variation in Biological Anthropology
- 5 Summarise key research in this field and explain it to others
- 6 Understand the history of Anthropological study in the field of human variation, the costs of misconceptions, and the ethical implications of such research

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Online test (1.5 hours)	1	2	6			
Written exam (2 hours)	1	2	3	4	5	6

Outline Syllabus

How and why do humans vary? Human adaptation over different timescales. The history of human dispersals and their impact on variation and adaptation. Human uniqueness and the human ecological niche. Biological and cultural adaptation to different environmental stimuli (heat, cold, disease and diet). Human adaptation at the extremes and the limits of human adaptation. Are Humans still evolving? The effects of demographic, ecological and lifestyle change on humans in the Anthropocene. The history and ethics of the Anthropological study of human variation and the effects of misconceptions and folk taxonomies of human diversity.

Learning Activities

The learning activities in this module will consist of lectures, practicals, workshops, and museum visits.

Notes

This course explores topics central to understanding human diversity, a major subject in the field of Biological Anthropology.