

Module Information

2022.01, Approved

Summary Information

Module Code	4314NATSCI
Formal Module Title	Human Variation, Adaptation, and Ecology
Owning School	Biological and Environmental Sciences
Career	Undergraduate
Credits	20
Academic level	FHEQ Level 4
Grading Schema	40

Teaching Responsibility

LJMU Schools involved in Delivery
Biological and Environmental Sciences

Learning Methods

Learning Method Type	Hours
Lecture	22
Off Site	4
Practical	12
Workshop	11

Module Offering(s)

Display Name	Location	Start Month	Duration Number Duration Unit
JAN-CTY	CTY	January	12 Weeks

Aims and Outcomes

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.
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After completing the module the student should be able to:

Learning Outcomes

Code	Number	Description
MLO1	1	Describe the dichotomy between great human diversity and the close relationship between all living people
MLO2	2	Distinguish between adaptive and neutral variation and understand the main mechanisms underlying both
MLO3	3	Recognise and explain the ecological and cultural stressors that have shaped human adaptation
MLO4	4	Identify the main methods used in measuring and analysing human variation in Biological Anthropology
MLO5	5	Summarise key research in this field and explain it to others
MLO6	6	Understand the history of Anthropological study in the field of human variation, the costs of misconceptions, and the ethical implications of such research

Module Content

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.
Module Overview	How and why do humans vary and are humans still evolving? This module focuses on human biological and cultural diversity and how these characteristics make humans such an adaptable species. It also considers the ethics and societal impact of the study of human diversity.
Additional Information	This course explores topics central to understanding human diversity, a major subject in the field of Biological Anthropology.

Assessments

Assignment Category	Assessment Name	Weight	Exam/Test Length (hours)	Module Learning Outcome Mapping
Test	Online test (1.5 hours)	40	0	MLO1, MLO2, MLO6
Centralised Exam	Written exam (2 hours)	60	2	MLO1, MLO2, MLO3, MLO4, MLO5, MLO6

Module Contacts

Module Leader

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
Laura Buck	Yes	N/A

Partner Module Team

Contact Name	Applies to all offerings	Offerings
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