

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS
Status: Definitive
Code: **6309NATSCI** (122259)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

Owning School/Faculty: Natural Sciences & Psychology
Teaching School/Faculty: Natural Sciences & Psychology

Team	Leader
John Morrissey	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 40
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 160

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	12
Off Site	12
Practical	14

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Portfolio	Fieldtrip	Student Directed Fieldtrip – including context setting portfolio consisting of: Flyer, handout and blog/facebook page for review in conjunction with field presentations	50	
Exam	Exam	Exam	50	2

Aims

To provide students with profession ready environmental problem solving skills, focused on the dynamic, complex and embedded nature of contemporary

sustainability challenges. To link theoretical debates about sustainability transitions, with geographical understanding of spatial and scale effects. To provide practical analytical and interpretive skills, grounded in an appreciation of management, governance and decision-making realities.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Characterise complex socio-technical systems, recognising the co-evolutionary interactions between resource availability, infrastructure and technology, the social practices of resource users and policy
- 2 Relate contemporary local case studies to wider global processes and theoretical debates
- 3 Provide robust and comprehensive interpretation of the implications of sustainability transitions, as well as demonstrate understanding of the contested nature of policy responses

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Student Directed Fieldtrip	2	3
Exam	1	3

Outline Syllabus

- *Sustainability Transitions Concepts*
- *Environmental Policy & Governance: Global to Local Scales*
- *Complex Systems & Sustainability*
- *Nexus (Food, Energy, Water, Land), Urban & Coastal Systems, Supply Chains*
- *Environmental Practices: Citizens, Consumers and Communities*
- *Tools for Sustainability Assessment*
- *Innovation for Transition*

Learning Activities

Lectures, practical workshops and fieldwork

Notes

In the past decade, the literature on transitions toward sustainable socio-technical systems has made a considerable contribution in understanding the complex and multi-dimensional shifts considered necessary to adapt societies and economies to

sustainable modes of production and consumption. This module is grounded in the emerging transitions literature and will seek to build understanding, developing on core geographic concepts of space, place and scale to provide novel perspective on pressing environmental and sustainability challenges.