

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Understanding cities: theory, culture and social change
Status: Definitive
Code: **7000MCCC** (120469)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School

Team	Leader
Gerwyn Jones	Y
Kerry Wilson	

Academic Level: FHEQ7 **Credit Value:** 30 **Total Delivered Hours:** 48

Total Learning Hours: 300 **Private Study:** 252

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	24
Off Site	6
Seminar	18

Grading Basis: 50 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Essay	80	
Presentation	AS2	Presentation (Seminar)	20	

Aims

This module will help students understand and critically engage with the development of theoretical approaches to understanding cities, with a focus on the interrelationships between cities, culture, and urban change. The module will enable students to

- *evaluate the different ways in which cities are conceived and analysed, in relation to their economic, cultural, and social significance; social and urban change;*
- *understand contemporary approaches to urban policy and the role and contribution of cultural policy in a wider theoretical and historical context*
- *critically debate why culture and creativity are vital to understandings of cities in different historical contexts and, in contemporary times, to economically successful and socially sustainable cities.*

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Exercise critical reading, reasoning and essay writing skills.
- 2 Understand the main contemporary debates about cities' economic and social importance and wellbeing.
- 3 Critically evaluate the relative contribution of a wide range of factors to successful cities, including cultural policy and understand how this varies in different contexts.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Essay	1	2
Presentation (Seminar)	3	

Outline Syllabus

1. *Introducing cities: what are they, why are they important, critical debates*
2. *Evolution of UK cultural policy*
3. *Urban cultural activity and creativity in the UK & Western Europe*
4. *Reflecting on the European Capital of Culture: UK and European Case Studies*
5. *Regenerating the post-Industrial city: The Liverpool experience*
6. *Exploring the strengths and weaknesses of culture-led regeneration*
7. *The 'Creative City': key thinkers, theories & critical reflections*
8. *International urban cultural policy research: case studies & lessons*
9. *Field Visit: exploring case studies of urban culture-led regeneration*
10. *Understanding Cultural Value: Academic and Policy Debates*
11. *Working in the Cultural and Creative Industries: Academic and Policy Debates*

Learning Activities

A lecture series will provide students with a grounding in the subject matter to enable them to explore key issues in further depth in essays.

Students will be expected to conduct independent reading and study to enable them to raise questions at the end of the lectures and to contribute to discussions in seminars/workshops.

A field trip will be included to help students consolidate the theory and academic research they have learnt during lectures and seminars, through visiting 'real world' examples.

Notes

Understanding cities: cities, culture and creativity explores changing theoretical approaches to understanding cities' cultural significance in a range of contexts. As such the module will complement students' learning on other parts of the programme. The module draws upon works in a range of disciplines, and from a range of theoretical traditions, in keeping with the inter-disciplinary focus of the MA.

The module begins with a recognition that cities remain scenes of profound social and cultural change and sites for creativity, innovation, and the emergence of advanced service industries, and that theoretical approaches to understanding these dynamics and transformations, and policy responses to them, are therefore of fundamental importance to students. In fact, when viewed in a broader historical context, social, cultural, and urban change and problems associated with cities were important precipitants in the development of important strands within social, cultural, and critical theory. The module therefore aims to provide students with an understanding of contemporary debates relating to cities, while also providing a wider historical and theoretical context.

The module gives detailed consideration to contemporary debates and policy responses that lie at the core of its concerns. Contemporary cities remain sites of social, cultural, and economic change, innovation, adaptation and renewal. In this part of the module, students will develop an awareness of key contemporary urban theories, trends, and their underlying dynamics, recent economic changes and their impacts, the main facets of cultural policy, especially its urban aspects. The module concludes with an exploration of comparative case profiles of strategies and policies and work in the creative sector that are of relevance to the module.