SUMMER PROGRAMMES

UNDERGRADUATE MODULE SYLLABUS

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Module title	Climate Change, Sustainability and Global Development
Module code	4ZSSSC65
Module level	Level 4 (First year Undergraduate UK Higher Education)
Credit value	Equivalent to 15 King's credits, 7.5 ECTS, 3-4 US Credits
Duration	2 weeks
Workload	45 contact teaching hours + 105 Independent study hours. (See detail below)
Entry Requirements	Standard entry requirements here
Mode of Delivery	Face to face, on campus
Contributing Faculty	Department of International Development, School of Global Affairs, SSPP
Date last updated	Oct 2026 (following minor modifications, including title change)

MODULE INFORMATION
Module description
Climate change is one of the defining challenges facing societies and economies around the world, with profound implications for international development, political economy, and

global inequality. Drawing on wide-ranging perspectives from international development, political economy, international relations, sociology and political ecology, the module explores the historical development of climate and sustainability agendas and considers key contemporary issues including climate adaptation, development and inequality, international burden sharing, climate-related migration, energy transitions, food systems and food security, agrarian change, and climate activism. Students will examine the opportunities and challenges associated with different approaches to sustainable development, including the transition towards low-carbon economies and the role of markets, states, and international institutions.

From existential crisis in the small-island Pacific state to the practice of rollin' coal in the US, this module also considers the political and economic factors that shape how climate change is experienced and addressed across different regions and communities, including case studies from Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Through the analysis of key debates, case studies and empirical evidence, students will explore questions of power, responsibility, vulnerability, and resilience in the context of global environmental change. We will particularly examine the relationship between climate change and development, including the distribution of the costs and benefits of climate action, and the challenges of achieving sustainable and inclusive development.

This module is open to students of any discipline who are interested in climate change and the environment, and who would like to stretch themselves academically in a welcoming and horizontal environment, and we encourage students of diverse disciplinary backgrounds to apply. The course may be of particular interest to those students who hope to work in climate focused politics and policy-making, environmental CSOs, or sustainable enterprise

Educational aims

This module aims to give students a broad understanding of the contemporary landscape of climate change, sustainability, and global development from an interdisciplinary perspective. The course aims to examine different approaches and debates relating to the concept of 'sustainability' through analytical inquiry, examination of key source material and case studies, and the application of a range of theoretical frameworks. Students will also gain an understanding of the current power relations that underpin different countries and communities' ability to adapt to and resist climate change.
Students will also gain analytical tools needed to assess competing approaches to climate policy and sustainable development in an increasingly interconnected world. They will also gain practical employment-related skills through the module's assessments, producing an analytical report of a chosen real-world climate-focused policy, and engaging in a climate change negotiation simulation.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this module, students will have enhanced their skills and capabilities in the following areas:

- Knowledge and Understanding: Students will be able to explain, compare, and evaluate multiple different theoretical approaches to climate change and sustainability through participatory classroom activities and in their final policy-oriented research project.
- Knowledge and Understanding: Understand and evaluate alternative approaches to sustainable development.
- Cognitive Skills: Analyse climate change and sustainability related development issues in their regional contexts and their links to global processes and institutions.
- Problem solving, research, and enquiry: Students will develop their research skills through examining a range of sources and existing data on a chosen climate-related policy from a specific country or regional context during their final research project.
- Interpersonal and communication skills: Students will develop their negotiation and communication skills, as well as their reflective skills in our simulated climate negotiation.

Teaching methods

The module will typically consist of activities distributed as stated below. Please note that individual tutors may vary this in accordance with discipline-specific requirements.

Lectures	Seminar/ tutorials	Field/lab/studio/ supervised learning	Project work	Other/private study
16 hours	20	9		105

Assessment

Method	Number	Duration/length	Pass mark	% of final grade of module
Climate Policy Analysis Report	1	1,600 words	40	60%
Climate Mitigation Negotiation Simulation	1	3 hours in-class activity + 400 words post-class individual reflection	40	40%

Attendance requirements

Students must attend a minimum of 80% of timetabled contact hours to receive a Record of Agreed Results.

Reading list

- Adams, Bill (2008) *Green Development: Environment and Sustainability in a Developing World*, London, UK: Routledge
- Cederlöf, Gustav, and Loftus, Alex (2024) *Discovering Political Ecology*, London, UK: Routledge
- Shiva, Vandana (2016) *Who Really Feeds the World?* London, UK: Zed Books