

Dissertation

Module Code: SCH516

Regenerative Economics 2020-2021

Module Leader: **Jonathan Dawson**

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Welcome and Introduction

SCH516: Dissertation

This module provides students with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their capacity for independent study in the application of research skills to a topic appropriate to the degree. It will include a research methods workshop, including sessions on action research, phenomenology and a selection of qualitative and quantitative research methods. Students will be supported to identify research topics and to select appropriate research orientations and methodologies.

Teaching and Assessment Team

Programme Leader:	Jonathan Dawson
Location:	Schumacher College
Email:	Jonathan.dawson@schumachercollege.org.uk
Phone number:	01803 847216
Student meeting times:	Informal, by negotiation. Formal tutorial in study week at the end of the module

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Module Aims

This module aims to:

1. Introduce students to a range of research methodologies in the social sciences;
2. Provide an opportunity for students to pursue in depth a topic of their own interest;
3. Extend students' powers of critical evaluation and original thought;
4. Bring reflective and reflexive awareness to the enquiry

Assessed Learning Outcomes

- identify a suitable research topic, formulate research questions and develop a research design; make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources appropriate to the discipline
- plan and execute an investigation making use of an appropriate methodology
- prepare a clear, well presented report or project (such as video documentary) which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner

Teaching and Learning Strategy

SUMMARY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING [Use HESA KIS definitions]		
Scheduled Activities	Hours	Comments/Additional Information
Lecture	20	
Seminar	20	
Tutorial	12	
Demonstration	0	
Practical classes and workshops	10	
External visit	8	
Guided independent study	530	Preparation for scheduled activities using Virtual Learning Environment, module reading list and class materials; preparation for assignments. Detailed formative assessment will be given to students on a one to one basis.
Total	600	(NB: 1 credit = 10 hours of learning; 10 credits = 100 hours, etc)

Students are expected to take full responsibility for their learning, attend tutorials with their supervisor, read appropriate indicated readings, and work on set exercises (formative and summative assessment).

Please ensure that you are engaging with the content and learning activities relating to this module.

Scheme of Work

This module will be assessed by:

Element of Assessment	Module Weighting	Component	Link to Assessed Learning Outcomes
Either: i) a 12,000 – 15,000-word essay or ii) a creative project (which needs to be agreed in advance with the module leader) accompanied by an academic commentary of a length to be agreed with the module leader	100%		All

The dissertation must be submitted via the VLE by 12 noon on Monday, August 24.

Feedback and provisional marks will be provided no later than 5.00pm on Monday, October 19, 2020

Marking Rubric

LO1: • identify a suitable research topic, formulate research questions and develop a research design; make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources appropriate to the discipline			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%
Does not demonstrate an ability to identify a suitable research topic, to develop a research design and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources	Demonstrates a partial ability to identify a suitable research topic, to develop a research design and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources	Demonstrates a sound ability to identify a suitable research topic, to develop a research design and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources	Demonstrates full and detailed ability to identify a suitable research topic, to develop a research design and to make use of scholarly reviews and primary resources
LO2: • plan and execute an investigation making use of an appropriate methodology			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%
Fails to demonstrate an ability to plan and execute an investigation making use of an appropriate methodology	Demonstrates in some measure an ability to plan and execute an investigation making use of an appropriate methodology	Demonstrates in good measure an ability to plan and execute an investigation making use of an appropriate methodology	Demonstrates a thorough and rigorous an ability to plan and execute an investigation making use of an appropriate methodology
LO3: • prepare a clear, well presented report or project (such as video documentary) which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner			
Fail: 0 – 49%	Pass: 50 – 59%	Merit: 60 – 69%	Distinction: 70 – 100%
Does not demonstrate an ability to prepare a clear, well presented report or project which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner	Limited demonstration of an ability to prepare a clear, well presented report or project which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner	Sound demonstration of an ability to prepare a clear, well presented report or project which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner	Excellent and rigorous demonstration of an ability to prepare a clear, well presented report or project which communicates the ideas, problems, solutions and results in an accessible manner

Hand in Process and Submission of Assessed Work

All assessment assignments must be submitted via an electronic 'drop box' on the Virtual Learning Environment to meet the date and time as published in your Teaching, Learning and Assessment Handbook. Where CDs, DVDs or other project materials are submitted as part of the project, these should, where possible, be submitted in triplicate, enabling both of the main markers and the External Examiner to receive copies. These must be presented by the specified date and time to the postgraduate administration office. In the event the Postgraduate administration team are unavailable a member of faculty will be nominated to accept submissions in advance of each deadline date.

Turnitin

Turnitin (<http://www.turnitinuk.com/>) is an Internet-based 'originality checking tool' which allows documents to be compared with content on the Internet, in journals and in an archive of previously submitted works. It can help to detect unintentional or deliberate plagiarism.

It is a formative tool that makes it easy for students to review their citations and referencing as an aid to learning good academic practice. Turnitin produces an 'originality report' which may be necessary to be attached to your coursework and your tutors will advise you on how to access and use Turnitin where required for your studies. To learn more about Turnitin go to: <https://help.turnitin.com/Home.htm>

Late Work/Extenuating Circumstances

If your participation in an examination or assessment has been affected by an extenuating circumstance, then you can ask the University to take this into consideration. You can submit a claim for extenuating circumstances to cover late submission of work, non-submission of work or non-attendance at a time specific assessment, such as an examination, test presentation or performance, or field class.

Information regarding the Extenuating Circumstances policy and how and where to submit Extenuating Circumstance Claims are available here: <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/exams/exam-rules-and-regulations/extenuating-circumstances>

Where there are no valid extenuating circumstances, the following regulations will automatically apply:

- Work submitted after the deadline date/time but within 24 hours of it, will be capped at the pass mark 50%
- Work submitted 24 hours after the deadline will receive a mark of zero.

Students must notify the programme & module leader of any extenuating circumstances as soon as possible.

Sources of Guidance and Support

In the intimate context of Schumacher College where class sizes are small, opportunities for conversations and informal tutorials with staff happen on a daily basis both within and beyond the classroom. In addition, a formal 45-minute tutorial is provided in the study week at the end of each module.

Referencing Protocols and Academic Offences

When writing a report or an essay you are expected to fully reference the materials you have used. The report or essay should be your own work, in your own words.

Plagiarism is an offence under the University regulations on examination and assessment offences. It is important that you familiarise yourself with what constitutes plagiarism, and academic offences. Further information can be found:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/regulations/plagiarism>

And <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/exams/exam-rules-and-regulations/examination-offences>

Reading List; Recommended Texts/Support Materials

Key resource list

- Daniel Barbezat Wanting: Teaching Economics as Contemplative Inquiry
- <http://www.contemplativemind.org/archives/1517>
- Bryman, A. (2008) *Social Research Methods*. 3rd edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- IIED (1997) *Valuing the Hidden Harvest: Methodological Approaches for Local level Economic Analysis of Wild Resources*. Research Series Vol 3 No 4.
- David Holmgren, Future Scenarios <http://www.futurescenarios.org/>
- Lyson, Welsh and Torres, Scale of Agricultural Production, Civic Engagement, and Community Welfare
- Mason, J. (2002) *Qualitative Researching*. 2nd edn. London: Sage.
- Moser, C.A. and Kalton, G. (1993) *Survey Methods in Social Investigation*. 3rd edn. London: Heinemann.
- Claire Petitmengin & Michel Bitbol, The Validity of First-Person Descriptions as Authenticity and Coherence File
- Reason P. And Bradbury H. (eds) (2008) *The Sage Handbook of Action Research*, Sage Publications, London.
- Reason P. & H. Bradbury (Eds.), *Handbook of Action Research: Participative Inquiry and Practice* (pp. 1-14). London: Sage 2001 (the copy of this on the website is a typescript)
- Reason, P., & Canney, S. (in preparation 2015). Action Research and Ecological Practice In H. Bradbury (Ed.), *Sage Handbook of Action Research*. London: Sage Publications
- Jonathan Smith (Ed.), *Qualitative Psychology: A Practical Guide to Methods*. London: Sage Publications.
- Silverman, D. (ed.) (2004) *Qualitative Research – Theory, Method and Practice* (London: Sage)
- Francisco J. Varela and Jonathan Shear, First-person Methodologies: What, Why, How? File 95.2KB PDF document

Module Feedback

We value what our students say: you share your feedback we act upon it. Part of the feedback process includes Module Evaluation. A link to the form and details of where to submit can be found here: <https://open.schumachercollege.org.uk/course/view.php?id=186>