

Liverpool John Moores University

University Modular Framework

Module Code: 7512CATSCI

Module Title: Theoretical approaches to  
transformational social change

School: NSP

Version No:
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Module Leader

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Telephone:

Level: 7

Credit Rating: 15

Indicative Time Allowances (hours):

Lec	Tut	Sem	Prt	Wrk	Fld	Other	Deliv. Tot	Exam	Private Study	Tot. Learning Hours
19	0	3	8	0	0	0	30	0	120	150

Semester Delivery: (Select one only)

Semester 1

Semester 2

Runs twice (S1 & S2)

Year Long

Summer

Other

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Pre-requisites:

Recommended Prior Study:

Co-requisites:

Barred Combinations:

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Aims:

- Critically analyse the theories of behavioural and societal change relevant to transformational adaptations to environmental challenges.

- b) Examine behaviour change theories drawing upon behavioural science, social and systems models.
- c) Evaluate the different roles and motivations of individuals, organisations, communities, Governments and society in driving social change for sustainability
- d) Investigate the means by which we can evaluate behaviour and social change
- e) Analyse the practical application of different theoretical approaches to promote sustainable behaviour and transformational adaptation.

Learning Outcomes: After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically evaluate approaches to behaviour and societal change within the context of environmental challenges and transformational social change
- 2 Reflect on and evaluate the different roles played by individuals, organisations, communities, Governments and society, and their interactions, in driving social change for sustainability
- 3 Flexibly and creatively apply suitable behaviour change approaches to a given environmental problem at the appropriate scale

Learning Activities:

This module will comprise a series of lectures, supported by interactive seminars and workshops. Lectures will draw on a broad variety of theoretical and applied topics with a wide use of interdisciplinary case studies throughout. Workshop sessions will be used to develop group work and analytical skills for both onsite learners and distance-learners. Student directed learning will support the application of the theory learnt during the module.

Outline Syllabus:

Opinions, perceptions, beliefs, attitudes, values and behaviour  
 Behaviour change models including: behavioural economics and nudge approaches to behaviour change / Mindful change / mindspace  
 Social change models including social norms, social practice and everyday life  
 Systems change models including interconnections of individual, communities, organisations, places  
 The role of community and participatory based approaches in behaviour change  
 Evaluating behaviour change  
 Practical Application / case studies of theory to transformational change for sustainability

Indicative References:

Little, L., Sillence, E., Joinson, A. (2016) *Behaviour Change Research and Theory: Psychological and Technical Perspectives*, Academic Press

Christmas, S., Michie, S., West, R. [Eds]. (2015) *Thinking about behaviour change: an interdisciplinary dialogue*, Silverback Publishing

Spotswood, F. (2016) *Beyond Behaviour Change: Key Issues, Interdisciplinary approaches and Future Directions*, Policy Press

Shove, E., Pantzar, M., Watson, M. (2012). *The dynamics of social practice: everyday life and how it changes*. SAGE

Meadows, D., *Thinking in Systems: A primer* (2017) Chelsea Green Publishing Co

Higgins, K (2014) *Economic Growth and Sustainability: Systems Thinking for a Complex World* Academic Press

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Assessment Details:

1 Coursework: 70% Coursework: Essay (2000 words)  
2 Coursework: 30% Coursework: Case Study Analysis (1000 words or equivalent)

Weighting between E and CW: 0% 100%

Relationship between learning outcomes and assessment tasks:

	1	2	3
Component 1	X	X	
Component 2		X	X

Minimum Pass Mark (%): 50

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Module Notes: