

Reconstructing Past Environments

Module Code:	ARC6019-B
Academic Year:	2018-19
Credit Rating:	20
School:	School of Archaeological and Forensic Sciences
Subject Area:	Archaeology
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 6
Module Leader:	Dr Gillian Thompson

Additional Tutors:

Pre-requisites:

Co-requisites:

Contact Hours

Type	Hours
Lectures	18
Tutorials	10
Laboratory	12
Directed Study	158
Examinations DO NOT USE	2

Availability Periods

Occurrence	Location/Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1 (Sep - Jan)

Module Aims

This module provides an overview of i) the nature, causes and effects of environmental and climatic change during the Quaternary; ii) the techniques used to reconstruct past environments and climate; iii) the impact of environmental and climatic change on people; and iv) human impact on the natural environment and climate.

Outline Syllabus

Topics to be included in this module are:

overview of the nature of past environments and climates; rates and scales of environmental and climatic change; the causes and nature of Quaternary environmental and climatic change; inferring the past from the present; application of uniformitarianism in palaeoecology; depositional environments; taphonomy of biological fossils and recovery methods; sampling strategies; field and lab techniques; data analysis and interpretation of biological fossil remains; humans and environmental and climatic change: human population responses to environmental and climatic changes over different timescales; human impacts on the environment.

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to...

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| 1 | 1. critically review the study of past environments and climates and the mechanisms of environmental and climatic change. |
| | 2. evaluate palaeoenvironmental datasets |
| 2 | 3. critically review specialist practical and interpretive methods available for reconstructing past environments in the field and laboratory. |
| | 4. use and evaluate methods for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction. |
| 3 | N/A |

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Students will examine principles and concepts on the nature of past environments and environmental and climatic change through lectures; these are followed by a series of classes focusing on a number of themes which are introduced in a lecture, with identification skills developed in a practical session. During Directed Study hours students are expected to undertake reading to consolidate and expand on the content of formal taught sessions; research and prepare for assessments; revise material from formal taught sessions; and undertake specific elements of reading as directed.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Length	Weighting	Final Assess'
Summative	Examination - closed book	2 hour closed book examination	2 hours	50%	Yes
Summative	Coursework	Essay (2000 words)	0 hours	50%	No

Referral	Coursework	Supplementary assessment - essay (up to 4000 words)	0 hours	100%	No
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Legacy Code (if applicable)

AR-8132D

Reading List

To view Reading List, please go to [rebus:list](#).