



UK

SYLLABUS 2026-2027

Alternative Economy

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Module Code	2627_ECO_1_EN_006
Campus	Oxford
Department(s)	Territorial Economy and Sustainable Development
Level / Semester	Undergraduate Year 3 (U3); Equivalent to FHEQ level 6 Semester 05
Language of Instruction	English
Teaching Method	☒ In-person (face-to-face) ☐ Distance learning (live online) ☐ e-Learning (asynchronous) ☐ Hybrid: _____
Pre-requisite(s)?	None
ECTS <i>Reminder: 1 ECTS = between 20 and 30hr- student workload</i>	2
Equivalent FHEQ credits	4
Study Hours	40 hours which comprise of 15 directed learning and 25 independent learning/assessment hours

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module Aims	This module examines alternative approaches to economic activity through two interconnected themes: territorial economies and sustainable development within organisations. It develops students' knowledge and understanding of contemporary economic dynamics by exploring the relationship between global and local processes, the role of territories, and changing patterns of production and
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	consumption. Students will analyse how organisations respond to sustainability challenges through their strategies, practices and innovations, considering their implications for ecological sustainability, ethics and economic justice. The module enables students to apply relevant concepts and perspectives to the analysis of contemporary economic and organisational developments.
Teaching Arrangement	This module is delivered as lectures with face-to-face discussions with students, including regular debates.
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this module, students should be able to: 1. Analyse the economic, social and environmental implications of sustainable development for organisations and explain the role of management in supporting its implementation. 2. Examine emerging business models and entrepreneurial approaches that integrate innovation and sustainable development, including sustainable and green business practices. 3. Identify and explain the key characteristics, drivers and challenges of territorial economies and their relationship with wider economic dynamics. 4. Analyse patterns of economic development within territories and their environmental and social impacts, drawing on relevant theoretical concepts and empirical evidence. 5. Apply appropriate theoretical perspectives and analytical frameworks to contemporary examples of alternative economic activity at organisational and territorial levels.
Competency Goals <i>(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)</i>	PGE_U_CG01 - Manage teams
	PGE_U_CG03 - Develop and implement marketing and sales strategy
	PGE_U_CG04 - Manage a profit responsibly
	PGE_U_CG05 - Innovate to adapt to its environment
Alignment with Programme Learning Goals	PGE_U_CG01_LO04 - Manage self and others for responsible and ethical management
	PGE_U_CG03_LO01 - Analyse macro environment, benchmark and develop marketing strategy
	PGE_U_CG04_LO04 - Implement CSR policy
	PGE_U_CG05_LO02 - Create and maintain a culture of innovation
	PGE_U_CG05_LO04 - Develop decision-making support tools

SESSION TOPICS / MODULE SCHEDULE

(Please note, a session/sequence may be more than one scheduled class)

Session 1: Module Introduction

Content:

- Introduction to regional economic and main definitions
 - An area of economics?
 - Definitions and founding principles

References:

- Shuman, M. (2015) *The local economy solution: How innovative, self-financing “pollinator” enterprises can grow jobs and prosperity*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.

Session 2: Building Main Questions and Group Work Organisation

Content:

- Local and regional development stakes and strategies

References:

- Shuman, M. (2015) *The local economy solution: How innovative, self-financing “pollinator” enterprises can grow jobs and prosperity*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.

Session 3: How to Analyse the Economic Fabric of a Region

Content:

- Identification of territorial specificities
- Some tools for analysing the local economic impact

References:

- Shuman, M. (2015) *The local economy solution: How innovative, self-financing “pollinator” enterprises can grow jobs and prosperity*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.

Session 4: Factors Explaining the Location of Businesses

Content:

- The main factors of firm locations
- How to act on local decisions
- Example of public policies and local development
 - Territorialised policies of large groups

References:

- Shuman, M. (2015) *The local economy solution: How innovative, self-financing “pollinator” enterprises can grow jobs and prosperity*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.

Session 5: Economic Development and the Environment

Content:

- Links between economy and environment
- Notion of sustainable development
- Necessary consideration of environmental problems
- Economic growth and pollution

References:

- Shuman, M. (2015) *The local economy solution: How innovative, self-financing “pollinator” enterprises can grow jobs and prosperity*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.

Last reviewed: 22/09/2026

Session 6: Environmental Impacts - How to Evaluate Them in Monetary Terms

Content:

- Some notions of environmental economics
- The integration of the costs of environmental destruction (quantification of the costs incurred by the human being)

References:

- Shuman, M. (2015) *The local economy solution: How innovative, self-financing “pollinator” enterprises can grow jobs and prosperity*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.

KEY TEXTS

1. Shuman, M. (2015) *The local economy solution: How innovative, self-financing “pollinator” enterprises can grow jobs and prosperity*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.
2. Camilleri, M.A. (2017) *Corporate sustainability, social responsibility and environmental management: An introduction to theory and practice with case studies*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.
3. MacKinnon, D. and Cumbers, A. (2019) *An introduction to economic geography: Globalization, uneven development and place*. 3rd edn. Abingdon, United Kingdom: Routledge.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. Van Hamme, G., Pain, K., Didelon, C., Vérité, S., Richard, Y., Sainteville, M., Ducreut, C., Eliot, E. et al. (2012) *Territorial impact of globalization for Europe and its regions*. Rep. ESPON & Université Libre de Bruxelles, pp. 1–69.
2. Bourdin, S. and Nadou, F. (2020) ‘The role of a local authority as a stakeholder encouraging the development of biogas: A study on territorial intermediation’, *Journal of Environmental Management*, 258. doi:10.1016/j.jenvman.2019.110009.

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment (40%)	Case study
Final Exam (60%)	Closed-book written exam

MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *Bogdan Ibanescu*
- Reviewer: *Annette Zschau*
- External Reviewer: *Arun Chalise*