Historic Landscapes Online Access Module

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Module description

This introductory module is designed to demonstrate the great complexity of landscape using a series of case studies from across the British Isles. It will encourage awareness that landscape is constructed from historical processes played out by physical constraints and human social, economic and political factors. The student will acquire an historical perspective on the landscape, the people who have inhabited it, and those who continue to do so. The student will also be encouraged to consider the major forces in operation in the formation of a landscape from prehistory to the present e.g. agricultural practice, afforestation, access, and route ways. This module will also address the practicalities of how goods and people (and thus ideas) moved across landscapes, the constraints on those movements imposed by available technology, and the efforts made to overcome those constraints. Other themes to be explored in relation to landscape include industry, folklore, and conservation. The student will develop a clearer vision of present-day problems and ongoing trends and will be set thinking about concepts of "history", "inheritance" and "heritage" – a difficult and morally imperative topic that runs as a theme through the course.

How do I study?

This module takes a blended learning approach to study which comprises of three parts: 1. Live classes – There are 12 weeks of lectures for the course, a 2-hour class each Monday at 11am (UK time) from the 23/01/2023 to the 24/04/2023 (Easter Break takes place for two weeks after the 03/04/2023 and the course resumes on the 17/04/2023). These sessions are live and you can enter the class via Video Conferencing software that you will be able to download for free once you are enrolled on the course. 2. Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) – There is a VLE resource for the module that you will be able to access once enrolled through a facility called Brightspace (similar to a web page). Here you will find resources such as reading lists, lecture notes, powerpoints of the slides from class, useful links and exemplars of past assignments. All of the live classes are recorded and you will also find links to watch these back, should you miss a class or want to go back and re-watch something. Additional bi weekly seminar series will also be held through the VLE should you wish to attend. These are focussed on discussing assignments, academic papers and academic talks. 3. Self-Directed Study – This is the time for you to do the background reading for the classes and to complete your assignments. You can also use this time to explore the VLE resources.

What are the assignments for the module?

There are two assignments for this module and both are linked to the same study of an area of Landscape of your choice and you should use the feedback from Assignment 1 to help to develop and enhance Assignment 2. You can also make use of the Seminar Sessions to discuss how you are getting on with your assignments and to work through any issues or problems that arise from your research. 1. PowerPoint Presentation (25% of overall mark) – Here you will make a 5 minute presentation (roughly 7-10 slides) on the landscape you are investigating. You should briefly introduce the landscape under investigation, provide background to how this landscape has changed through time (e.g. map regression) and outline the archaeological features present in this landscape. Consider the age of the landscape, and identify whether certain periods or points in history have exerted a particularly strong influence over the development of the landscape (e.g. do most of the archaeological features present come from one time period?). You may also wish to include reference to studies and the results of which that have taken place within this landscape such as archaeological excavations, palaeoenvironmental studies (e.g. pollen), historic building surveys etc. Lastly you should include information on how you would investigate this landscape using non-invasive methods. In essence this assignment is Assignment 2 in miniature. 2. Desk Based Assessment (75% of overall mark) – For this assignment you will be producing a DBA (Desk-Based Assessment); a key skill and component of archaeological research. Within this assignment you will research an area of landscape (remember this is the same area of landscape as in Assignment 1) in order to show what archaeological features are present and provide information on what is known of these features. You will also discuss how you would investigate this landscape using non-intrusive archaeological methods (i.e. where you don't dig a trench or conduct any excavations as part of the investigation - Week 2 Class). Within you report you should include details on any archaeological investigations that have taken place in your chosen landscape and you may also think about including palaeoenvironmental studies. In this assignment you will be making use of a number of online resources including Pastmap and Canmore (Scotland only). You can also include elements of archival research, oral history and place names if you so wish. If you choose an area of landscape close to where you are based then it is recommended for you to go and experience this landscape first hand to see if you can find and document some of the archaeological features discovered through your research.

What will the course cost?

For more details on fees go to https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/studying-at-uhi/first-steps/how-much-will-it-cost/

What is the level of study?

This is an SCQF Level 7 module equivalent to the first year of a degree course

Is there an Information Pack for the Module?

Yes and this will be sent on to you prior to starting on the module and will contain details such as class timetable, weekly reading lists, useful links and full assignment details.

What are the Learning Outcomes for the Module?

At the end of this module, you be able to demonstrate that you:

1. Have developed an understanding of landscape change, the role people have played in shaping landscape and current landscape debate.

2. Have gained detailed knowledge of the range of methods that can be used to study landscape change.

3. Understand how to put into chronological context different types of features, route-ways and field systems found in the landscape.

What is the key reading for the module?

The key texts for this module are given below and it is recommended that you buy copies of the core texts. You will also have access to E-Books and E-Journals once you are enrolled so you will be able to access all of the weekly reading for the classes.

Core Texts

- Aston M. 1985 Interpreting the Landscape, Archaeology & Local History. Routledge.

- Bowden N. 1999 Unravelling the Landscape: An Inquisitive Approach to Archaeology. Tempus.

Recommended texts

- Edwards K.J. and Ralston I.B.M. 2003 Scotland after the Ice Age: Environment, archaeology and history. Edinburgh University Press.

- Fowler P.J. 1983 The Farming of Prehistoric Britain. Cambridge University Press.

- Muir R. 2000 The New Reading the Landscape: Fieldwork in Landscape History. University of Exeter Press.

- Pryor F. 2006 Farmers in Prehistoric Britain. Tempus.

- Vallance H.A. 1996 The Highland Railway. House of Lochar.

- Wickham Jones C.R. 2001 The Landscape of Scotland: A Hidden History. Tempus.

What software do I need to take the course?

In order to be able to VC into the classes you will need a computer/laptop that has a working microphone and camera. You will also need a good internet signal to be able to connect into classes. Once you are enrolled onto the module you will be able to download for free all the resources you need for the module including: Cisco Webex Teams (VC software) and Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Excel etc.). For more details and instructions on the software available to you see: https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/lis/software-downloads/

How do I apply?

If you wish to apply for this course then please email Dr Scott Timpany – scott.timpany@uhi.ac.uk