

School of Geography and Geosciences

Head of School Dr W E Stephens

Degree Programmes

Graduate Diploma: Health Geography Research
Environmental History and Policy (see School of History)

M.Res.: Health Geography

M.Litt.: Environmental History and Policy (see School of History)

M.Phil.: Environmental History and Policy (see School of History)

Programme Requirements

Health Geography/Health Geography Research

Graduate Diploma: 120 credits from GE5001 – GE5007, SS5001 and 10 credits from GE5010 – GE5013 (students may substitute up to 40 credits from other modules approved by the course co-ordinator)

M.Res.: 120 credits, as for the Graduate Diploma plus a dissertation (60 credits) (GE5008) of not more than 15,000 words

Modules

GE5001 Health Inequalities

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Programme: Compulsory core module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The course will define health, disease and illness; describe the epidemiological transition and its relevance in different geographical settings; demonstrate and explain the social, demographic and ethnic inequalities in health outcomes; consider the geographical variations in health inequalities both between and within nations; and critically examine the various philosophical approaches used to understand the geography of health inequalities. Techniques will include deprivation indexes; mapping of health data; conversion of postcodes to grid references; network analysis; use of the census and major government surveys.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two lectures and two seminars/practicals.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, 2 Hour Examination = 50%

Geography and Geosciences – 5000 Level Modules

GE5002 Health Care Provision and Utilisation

Credits:	20.0	Semester:	2
Programme:	Compulsory core module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.		
Description:	Topics covered include international perspectives on health care; allocation of resources; accessibility to services; GIS and mapping of health care; models of location and allocation in health care; spatial differences in service utilisation and their social effects; qualitative and ethnographic approaches to health care systems. The course will include both lectures and practical components.		
Class Hour:	To be arranged.		
Teaching:	Two lectures and two seminars/practicals.		
Assessment:	Continuous Assessment = 50%, 2 Hour Examination = 50%		

GE5003 Quantitative Methods in Health Research

Credits:	10.0	Semester:	1
Programme:	Compulsory core module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.		
Description:	The module will cover statistical analysis, and important data sources of relevance to health geography. The main topics will be elementary probability; analysis of contingency tables; correlation; simple and multiple regression and elementary spatial statistics. It will involve a hands-on approach to real health data and will involve lectures and practicals.		
Class Hour:	To be arranged.		
Teaching:	One lecture and one practical.		
Assessment:	Continuous Assessment = 100%		

GE5004 Qualitative Methods in Health Research

Credits:	10.0	Semester:	1
Programme:	Compulsory core module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.		
Description:	This module will introduce students to the basic difference between quantitative and qualitative field techniques and to the theoretical and epistemological arguments that inform the choice to use one or the other or both. It will discuss a range of qualitative field techniques and offer practical experimentation with several. The module will also discuss ways in which qualitative data might be analysed.		
Class Hour:	To be arranged.		
Teaching:	One lecture and one practical.		
Assessment:	Continuous Assessment = 100%		

GE5005 Introductory GIS for Health Research

Credits:	10.0	Semester:	1
Programme:	Compulsory core module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.		
Description:	This module will be taught in a series of lectures, laboratory exercises and seminars and will be assessed through the final GIS project, selected laboratory exercises and an examination. The course will introduce students to the methods of acquiring, storing, analysing and displaying spatial digital data; introduce data manipulation and statistical techniques on a number of health (and related) data sets with a variety of visualisation techniques; outline GIS project design strategies; and give students the skills to design their own GIS health-related project at the end of the module.		
Class Hour:	To be arranged.		
Teaching:	One lecture and one practical.		
Assessment:	Continuous Assessment = 50%, 2 Hour Examination = 50%		

Geography and Geosciences – 5000 Level Modules

GE5006 Social Survey Methods in Health Research

Credits: 10.0 Semester: 2

Programme: Compulsory core module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module takes students through the various stages of planning and conducting a questionnaire survey in the context of health research. Topics covered include the use of established social and health measures, designing and administering a questionnaire, sampling methods, conducting interviews and creating a usable database. Students are expected to devise a detailed research proposal and present it both orally and in written form. The module is inter-disciplinary in emphasis and deliberately encourages students to think outside their own discipline.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One lecture and one practical.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

GE5007 Research Design Seminar

Credits: 10.0 Semester: 2

Programme: Compulsory core module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This series of seminars and small group discussions is designed to allow students to develop an appropriate research design for their own dissertations. Seminars on current research in the geographies of health will be presented by both internal and external speakers. Students will have the opportunity to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of various research designs in small groups before presenting their own research design for critical comment.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

GE5008 Dissertation in Health Geography

Credits: 60.0 Semester: summer vacation

Programme: Compulsory module for Health Geography M.Res. postgraduate programme.

Description: Students choose a topic in the field of health geography on which to conduct independent research. Each dissertation will be supervised by a member of the teaching staff who will provide advice throughout the research process. Research will be conducted over the summer after the end of the taught modules and the completed dissertation of no more than 15,000 words must be submitted before the end of the course.

Class Hour: To be arranged with supervisor.

Teaching: Individual supervision.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

GE5010 Health and Environment

Credits: 10.0 Semester: 2

Programme: Optional module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module examines the various links between the environment and human health. The course is divided into three parts. The first considers the influence of the built environment on health, using examples such as housing and transport effects on health. The second considers the atmospheric environment, using examples including various forms of air pollution and the impact of radon on certain health outcomes. The third is more concerned with other aspects of the physical environment and case studies include the role of minerals such as asbestos and mining waste in human health.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two lectures and/or seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, 2 Hour Examination = 50%

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GE5011 Health Geographies in History

Credits: 10.0 Semester: 2

Programme: Optional module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: The module introduces students to the study of health and disease in the past. It has two elements. The first focuses on nineteenth century Britain. It examines the problems of reconstructing past trends in disease and mortality and considers the public response to contagious diseases. The second discusses the body, the gaze and the modern constitution of disease, looking at sixteenth century colonial America, Enlightenment Europe and late nineteenth century colonial India.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two lectures and/or seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, 2 Hour Examination = 50%

GE5012 The Geography of HIV/AIDS

Credits: 10.0 Semester: 2

Programme: Optional module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module addresses the uneven global geography of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its concentration in Africa. It examines why social scientific, not just biomedical, research is vital and explores the regionally specific dimensions of the virus's rapid spread in this context. The module also examines the social, political and economic implications of HIV/AIDS for Africa's development. The course concludes by looking toward future local and global initiatives that might help reduce transmission and ease the human suffering caused by HIV/AIDS

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two lectures and/or seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, 2 Hour Examination = 50%

GE5013 Migration and Health

Credits: 10.0 Semester: 2

Programme: Optional module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module has three elements. The first introduces human migration, discussing theoretical approaches to migration and issues such as employment, gender and the freedom to migrate. The second introduces the geography of health, focusing on socio-economic and spatial inequalities in health provision and outcomes. The third integrates these themes; topics include the role of migration in the spread of disease, adaptation to new environments and access to health care provision.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two lectures and/or seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 50%, 2 Hour Examination = 50%

GE5014 Geographies of Gender, Health and Place

Credits: 10.0 Semester: 2

Programme: Optional module for Health Geography Postgraduate Taught Programme

Description: This module examines recent theoretical and methodological developments in social-cultural health geographies, focusing on social aspects of health, illness and health care services. The module is structured around interconnected scales at which we can think about place i.e. moves from global/international issues related to gender and health, through to more specific levels – e.g. national health care, communities, the home, the body. Along the way, students are encouraged to engage critically with a variety of perspectives and approaches to the subject, and to pursue self-directed learning on areas of specific interest to them.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: One lecture, one seminar, one fortnightly tutorial.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Geography and Geosciences – 5000 Level Modules

GE5048 The Growing Awareness of Landscape

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2002-03

Prerequisite: Available only to Students admitted to the M.Litt. in Environmental History and Policy.

Programme(s): Optional module for Environmental History and Policy Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module offers an extended study of the changing awareness of landscape beauty in Europe. It aims to introduce students to the idea that the awareness of landscape as an object of beauty has been growing in Europe since the Renaissance and to the fact that the European definition of ‘the beautiful landscape’ has changed markedly over that period. It explores the idea that, notwithstanding these changes, there may be some fundamental and enduring reasons for landscape preferences. The module also introduces some of the skills involved in collecting and analysing data about landscapes.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: 20 hours of lectures and seminars, a field excursion, a presentation and tutorials.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

GE5051 Environmental Management in Scotland

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Availability: 2002-03

Prerequisite: Available only to Students admitted to the M.Litt. in Environmental History and Policy.

Programme(s): Optional module for Environmental History and Policy Postgraduate Taught Programme.

Description: This module focuses on current environmental management issues in Scotland. It provides, firstly, a presentation of the fundamental elements of the various systems of land and resource management (e.g. forestry, agriculture & crofting, wildlife, freshwater resources, conservation), and secondly, examples of the ways in which these systems interact. Throughout, the module aims to engender a holistic understanding of environmental management, in contrast to the sectoral approach traditionally employed by central and local government. The ultimate aim is to leave students with an informed conceptual framework for evaluating the merits of management proposals, with their attendant implications for environmental change and economic development. A particular focus, employing topical case studies and a field visit, will be the conflicts that are increasingly arising as interest groups with contrasting philosophies & value systems compete for the finite resources of Scotland’s wild places.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two 1 hour lectures weekly, and a weekend field excursion.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%

Geography and Geosciences – 5000 Level Modules

SS5001 Research Training in the Social Sciences (I)

Credits: 20.0 Semester: 1

Programme(s): Compulsory module for Health Geography Research Postgraduate Taught Programmes.

Description: The module is the first of two designed to provide first year research students with both a broad and basic training in research methods in the social sciences. The course aims to give participants a firm understanding of approaches to and methods used in research in different social science fields, providing the student with both a stronger basis for undertaking his or her own research and knowledge of other approaches and methods giving important perspectives useful in one's own research. This module deals with issues relating to data and information: the nature of data, data and information retrieval and data processing. Emphasis is placed upon the use of computers, involving accessing remote databases, information and file transfer, database construction and library use, spreadsheets and competence in use of a statistical package (SPSS). In addition, time is devoted to presentation of research results, both oral and written, project management and team work and problems of research ethics and funding.

Class Hour: To be arranged.

Teaching: Two hour seminars.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 100%