1. KentVision Code and title of the module

SACO9920 Advanced Topics in Contemporary Science

## Division and School/Department or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module

Division of Human and Social Sciences, School of Anthropology and Conservation

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 7

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

15 credits (7.5 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any module restrictions**

None

1. **The courses of study to which the module contributes**

* MSc Forensic Osteology and Field Recovery Methods

Also available as an elective Level 7 module for other MA/MSc courses within the Division.

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

8.1 demonstrate advanced knowledge and in-depth understanding of theoretical concerns and new research in scientific and evolutionary anthropology

8.2 gain exposure to evolutionary approaches to the study of human behaviour

8.3 critically evaluate new research in evolutionary anthropology, and more generally, that of evolutionary science

8.4 gain an in depth understanding of the internal workings of the research and publishing process in evolutionary and anthropological science

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

9.1 demonstrate critical thinking

9.2 demonstrate developed writing skills, such as clarity and presenting analytical results

9.3 demonstrate advanced reading skills

9.4 demonstrate advanced communication skills

9.5 demonstrate time management and preparation

9.6 organise information in a clear way.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module is an advanced treatment of current topics and debates in contemporary science broadly related to various aspects of anthropology and the human sciences. Emphasis is on scientific advances and changes during the past decade, and on the directions of future research. The goal of this course is to understand and present on scientific topics and, specifically, how research and publication works in a scientific context. This module will allow students to be exposed to a broad series of topics, opinions, methodologies, journal articles, and ideas in numerous highly relevant fields of research. Seminars will critically examine classic and recent journal articles, considering the quality of research and presentation.

1. Reading list

The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

This module only uses primary literature, much of which is chosen by the students as part of their seminar leadership. As such, the reading list for this module changes from year to year. It will contain the most up to date and/or controversial topics in a variety of fields.

Articles will generally be drawn from the following journals, and other relevant sources where appropriate:

* *Evolution and Human Behavior*
* *Evolutionary Psychology*
* *Journal of Human Evolution*
* *Human Nature*
* *Human Biology*
* *International Journal of Primatology*
* *Nature*
* *Science*
* *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*

## Contact Hours

Private Study: 126

Contact Hours: 24

Total: 150

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

* Essay (3500 words) (60%)
* Seminar Leadership (20%)\*
* Portfolio of weekly reading summaries (~500 word per topic) (20%)

*\*This element is pass compulsory and must be passed to achieve the learning outcomes of the module.*

13.2 Reassessment methods

Like for like.

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 and 9) to learning and teaching methods and methods of assessment (section 13)**

Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods:

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Private Study |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |
| Seminar | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

**Module learning outcomes against assessment methods:**

| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Seminar Leadership | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Essay | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |
| Portfolio of weekly reading summaries |  | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

Students are encouraged to take a global view during this module. They read research from a variety of international scholars and use this to inform their seminar leadership and their essay.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**Module record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

| Date approved | New/Major/Minor revision | Start date of delivery of (revised) version | Section revised (if applicable) | Impacts PLOs (Q6 & 7 cover sheet) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 26.01.22 | Minor | September 2022 | 1, 10 | None |
|  |  |  |  |  |