Sustainability in Languages

Cultures of Sustainability
LANG5001

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While the concept of sustainability has its roots in the natural sciences, it is becoming evident that theories and practices of sustainability are of relevance in social and cultural studies as much as biophysical relationships.

The module begins with an examination of the wide-ranging definitions of sustainability and of the contribution to the discourse from Humanities subjects. We proceed to analyse a diverse range of case studies from across Modern Languages at Kent.

The case studies including topics such as 18th-century forest management in Germany, Caribbean postcolonial literature, Italian eco-cinema, and urban organic agriculture in Cuba highlight cultural practices ranging across time periods and geographies in which sustainable processes are key.

The module concludes with a consideration of how the case studies illustrate theories and practices of sustainability, and how in turn they may be considered catalysts for further engagement in questions of sustainability.