Module code	**INR712**			**Level**	7
Module title	**Global Thriving – Problem Solving in a Complex World**				
Status	Core				
Teaching Period	Spring				
Courses on which the module is taught	MA International Relations				
Prerequisite modules	Not applicable				
Notional learning hours	200	**Credit value**	20	**ECTS Credits**	10
Field trips?	*Not applicable*				
Additional costs	*Not applicable*				
Content notes	*Not applicable*				

1. Module description

From Palaeolithic foragers to 21st-century urbanites, humanity evolved through innovation and collective problem-solving. The last few decades have seen a huge reduction in extreme poverty, increased life expectancy, and the narrowing of economic development gaps. However, as certain challenges are overcome, new ones inevitably emerge. Our quest for sustainable, resilient, and thriving societies requires a deeper dive into the nature of systemic problems and the manners in which technology, economics, politics and culture can be harnessed to develop effective new solutions.

Using examples and case studies from both the entrepreneurship and policy-making realms, this module aims to provide students with a better understanding of the nature of complex problems, while giving them the conceptual and practical tools required to transform them.

2. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, you will be able to:

Innovation (MLO2): Create and implement new value propositions for taking on the complex challenges of our time.
Decision Making (MLO4): Formulate informed decisions in complex situations to solve real world issues.
Digital Data and Tools (MLO6):
Appraise and utilise digital tools and complex data sources for your research.
International Perspective (MLO9): Integrate different disciplinary approaches – economic, cultural, technological and political, in proposing insights into complex scenarios.
Human and Environmental Impact (MLO10): Evaluate the impact of human activity, including your own, on people and on the environment to offer sustainable solutions.

3. Learning and teaching methods, and reasonable adjustments

This module's learning and teaching strategy involves a mix of formal lectures, seminar debates, group work, and independent research projects. Emphasising the application of theory to praxis, it will continuously oscillate between conceptual modelling and operational design.

Learning hours			**200**
Directed learning			48
Workshops/ classes/ seminars/ lead events	Supervision	Studio time	Other
48			
Guided/Self-guided learning			152

4. Assessments and weighting, reasonable adjustment, and feedback methods

Assessment component 1: Case Study (Individual Assessment), 40%
Maximum 2000 words

You will analyse the dynamics and forces driving a current global challenge. Using both qualitative and quantitative data sources you will explore existing approaches and compare their potential positive impact.

Reasonable adjustments for the assessment will be confirmed with students that have a support plan in place.

Assessment component 2: Presentation (Group Assessment), 60%
Maximum presentation time 20 minutes

You will work in small teams to research and develop an innovative solution within a chosen class theme. This solution could take an entrepreneurial, intrapreneurial, or public policy format. Formative: Following submission of the presentation topic and as your project develops week on week, you will be provided with feedback and suggestions on the content of the presentations, the thesis and analytical approach.

Allocation of marks for group work will be specified in the course assignment brief.

Reasonable adjustments for the assessment will be confirmed with students that have a support plan in place.

Mapping of assessment tasks:

Assessment components	**MLO2**	**MLO4**	**MLO6**	**MLO9**	**MLO10**
Case Study		x	x	x	x
Group Presentation	x		x	x	x

The above assessment components are summative. Students will have the opportunity for formative assessment and feedback before each summative assessment.

5. Indicative resources

Alexander, Jon, *Citizens: Why the Key to Fixing Everything Is All of Us*, Canonbury Press (2022)

Barabasi, Albert-Laszlo, *The New Science of Networks,* Perseus Publishing (2002).

Harari, Yuval Noah, *Sapiens – a brief history of human kind,* Vintage Classic (2014).

Johnson, Ayana Elizabeth, *What if we get it right: Visions of climate futures,* Random House (2024)

Lewick, Michael, *The Design Thinking Toolbox,* Wiley, (2020).

Lewis, Micheal, *The 5th Risk – undoing democracy,* Penguin (2018).

All these publications are available as eBooks.MIT Media Lab (https://www.media.mit.edu/research/?filter=projects)

The Sante Fe Institute – world's leading research center for complex systems research: https://www.santafe.edu/research/projects

Fast Company – leading multidisciplinary innovation magazine https://www.fastcompany.com/