Now & looking ahead

Changing modules, standards, assessment, ...

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Slides will be emailed to students
Now—changing modules

- Changes of modules for this semester must be done by 5pm, 11th October

- You need to collect a form from outside the Student Office and have it approved and signed by your tutor

- Do not leave changes until the last minute
Don’t be stuck with the wrong module

- **Wrong** because you are not prepared—e.g. you don’t know enough maths

- **Wrong** because the study method or assessment method does not suit you—e.g. too much reading and writing in English
In particular 2026 or 2006

- 'economics' package:
  - ECON 2026 Introduction to Econometrics in Semester 1
  - ECON 2032 Methods of Econometrics in S2

- 'mathematics' package
  - ECON 2006 Statistical Theory in S1
  - ECON 2007 Econometrics II in S2

Each package has 2 modules—making a quarter of the year
Only choose the maths package if you can do the maths!
In particular ANTH2002
Culture, Communication and Cognition

- The course description says “no prerequisites” but a second year module in Sociology will presume some prior study of the subject.

- The assessment is by essay and investigative report—these are big writing jobs in English.

- This is a difficult module for non-native speakers whose background is in economics.
Information – “my friend says …. ”

- Trust your friend about food, music, clothes
- Do **NOT** trust your friend about university rules/ regulations
- Friends usually do **NOT** know the rules
- Consult somebody who knows or look up the rules yourself
The rules (or regulations)

- These govern passing/failing, resitting etc.
- They are written down
- Everyone has access to them

The regulations are at
http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html

They are hard to understand—you need someone like me to translate!
The SH contains a lot of useful information and I refer to it in later slides.

It is available (with other handbooks) at http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentservices/academic-life/faculty-handbooks.page

Scroll down the list to Social Sciences and then click on Economics undergraduate programmes.
You are in the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Hub is a good resource.

The idea of the Hub is to direct you to everything you need to know.

You should have had an email telling you about it.
Looking ahead

- **Work**
  - **Standards**—what to aim for & what to avoid
  - **Problems**—special considerations & academic integrity

- and ... Holidays
# Standards: UK terms & what they mean in Soton

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>class</th>
<th>Average mark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First I</td>
<td>70+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper second II/i</td>
<td>60+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower second II/ii</td>
<td>50+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third III</td>
<td>40+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standards

- The SH pp. 29ff gives the criteria markers use when they mark students’ work

- The criteria are different for different subjects and levels

- (I am not sure how useful this information is to you—but it shows that lecturers think about what they are doing!)
What to aim for/what to avoid

- The usual requirement for admission to a UK Master’s course is a **first** (average of 70+) or **upper second** (average of 60+).

- In Soton a **fail** is a mark <40. (Visiting students get **no** credit for modules they fail.)

- A **bad fail** is a mark <25. (This is an uncompensatable fail and **you have to re-sit** in August in order to obtain DipHE or to pass the year for 2+2.)
Transcript and overall class

- All marks appear on your University transcript.
- There is no forgiving or cancelling of bad marks.
- There is no possibility of retaking papers to improve your marks.
- For 2+2s the final year marks are weighted twice as heavily as this year’s.
- Otherwise all marks count equally.
Assessment

- Informal tests during the course—‘mid-terms’
- Submitted coursework
- Formal exams at the end of each semester in January and May. I discuss them later.
- See SH pp. 16ff
What can go wrong—bad things

- Bad things happen to you—Special Considerations

- You do bad things—breaches of Academic Integrity AI
Mid-terms—what can go wrong?

- You do not turn up. If you are ill you should tell the lecturer responsible for the module.

- You appear to cheat. The mid-terms are often held in the lecture theatre used for the course. Students sit very close to each other and it is tempting to talk to your neighbour or look across at your neighbour’s work. Resist the temptation.
Coursework—what can go wrong?

- You miss the deadline. There are penalties for late submission. If you are ill you should tell the lecturer responsible for the module.

- You (or your group if its group work) plagiarise the work of somebody else.
Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting somebody else’s work as your own.
   It is form of cheating.
   And is punished.

There are 2 aspects
   Using somebody else’s work
   Presenting it as your own.
What is Plagiarism?

In some countries/cultures students may expect to copy. Teachers may want students to repeat exactly what is in text books or lecture notes.

At the University of Southampton all work you submit for marking must be your own original creation.

Presenting another’s work as if it was your own is called "plagiarism" and is the wrong thing to do.

Plagiarism is what you do when you copy without acknowledging your sources.

There are academic conventions for acknowledging sources.

We have clear university regulations against plagiarism.

Plagiarism is using someone else’s work without indicating that it is not your own.
I have been guilty of plagiarism

I wanted to impress you with my skill but I should have acknowledged that the previous slide was stolen.

There is a lot of useful material on the web e.g.

- https://library.leeds.ac.uk/tutorials/integrity/generic/
- https://library.leeds.ac.uk/tutorials/activities/plagiarism/recognising-plagiarism/
- https://library.leeds.ac.uk/tutorials/activities/plagiarism/you-be-the-judge/
Breaches of Academic Integrity

- **Minor breaches** “committed through inexperience or lack of understanding and ... limited in scope or their effect”

- For **Major breaches** the maximum penalty is *termination* of your programme.
So **don’t** breach AI

- **Always** refer to your sources and put any passage you reproduce in quotes.

**But also note**

- It is usually a **bad idea** to copy and paste text—even if you acknowledge the source.
  - **Bad** because the marker will know you are lazy and will probably think you do not understand what you have copied.
  - Putting matters in your own words is better—that’s part of learning
Examinations

- The exam is the most important form of assessment—accounting for 80-90% of the mark for the module.

- There are university procedures for everything connected with exams. You will receive information on these procedures.

- The first exams are in January and we will discuss them in a later meeting.
Illness

- Students are sometimes ill and most often the illness is minor

**BUT**

- if you believe that your performance in examinations or coursework has been seriously affected, you must ensure that this information, with supporting documentation, is submitted to the Student Office.

- You should inform your tutor
Extensions

- Students are sometimes unable to submit coursework at the given date—for **good** reason and **not** because their computer isn’t working.

- You should contact the Student Office as soon as possible.

- And complete a Special Considerations form.
Special consideration in general

Illness is the most common reason for special considerations

But other factors may also affect a student’s work.

- For example, last year a student went home for a few weeks because her grandfather was seriously ill.

If there is something you think should be taken into account when judging your performance you should speak to your tutor who will advise you on what to do.
Applying for Master’s courses

- For Master’s courses in 2020/21 most students apply later this semester although most British universities accept applications later.

- For Master’s courses in 2021/22 you do not need to do anything this year except get good grades and talk to senior students about their experience.
Vacations

**Only** take holidays during university vacations, viz.
Christmas: December 14 – January 5
Easter: March 21 - April 19
Summer: June 13 -

Do **not** take holidays during term, reading breaks or exam periods. To do so may violate the terms of your visa.
English Development

- Run for the first year of your studies at university
- Teacher is Chris Cullen from the Humanities department
- Runs in three separate groups on Wednesday afternoons – you shouldn’t have any other lectures then but if you do please let us know
- Groups were allocated at the start of the year, but if you don’t know yours please email the Partnerships team (FSS-International@soton.ac.uk)
- Not mandatory and not marked – but makes a really big difference on your grades if you study English
- Provided free of cost to students
- If you would like additional lessons or you would like to continue past your first year, there are options but they cost money – better to take advantage of this free service
- One of the big advantages to coming to the UK to study is to improve your English skills – please take advantage of this opportunity
Student Societies

- There are student societies for almost anything you might be interested in.
- Non-sports ones are often free or only charge a small membership fee.
- Great way to meet people and to practise your English with real people!
- Make friends and find out more about British culture.
Student Elections

**SUSU**, your Student Union, will be holding elections in October for course representatives.

Think about running for election

- It is your opportunity to have a real impact for your fellow students and future students
- Being a course rep is good experience for you.
Routine business and **not** overloading Student Office

At certain times the Student Office is very busy writing letters on behalf of students.

You can speed the flow for yourself and other students by

- making sure that all your details are correct
- by not returning to ask for the same letter to be rewritten
- by not racing back to ask the reason for any delay
Help

- You are students in a strange university in a strange country
- Don’t make assumptions about how things work here—don’t take chances
- If things go wrong with your studies, with your health, with your visa, with ... act immediately
- Get help from the Partnership Office, the Student Office, Meng, Antonella or me.
Any Questions??????