

# GEOG1071 - Human Geography

Report Type: Undergraduate Full Module Report

Responses: 158 / 368

Academic Year: 2021/22 - April 2022

Raters	Students
Responded	158
Invited	368
Response Ratio	42.9%

## Core Teaching Staff

Marijn Nieuwenhuis (lxhz85)

This report contains the results gathered during the recent online module evaluations project. Students were invited to share their feedback on their experience of the module, ultimately to help improve the overall quality of education at our institution.

As part of this process, all Module Leaders will receive an Full Module Report to identify strengths and areas for improvement in regard to their module. Please note that if your department has chosen to rate teaching on this module, as a module Leader you will receive an overview of all ratings for individual members of staff. Individual teachers on this module will receive a version of this report, but it will show only their individual rating for themselves, and will not include any free text comments. Once you have analysed the report please share your feedback with the other teachers on this module.

Senate reviewed the progression and promotion benchmarks in November 2021 and updated forms for providing evidence against these benchmarks in January 2022; the updated process, benchmarks and forms will be used in the 2022. The new progression and promotion process requires teachers to reflect upon their practice, using [Contextualised MEQs](#) and at least two other forms of evidence ([Evaluation for Teaching Excellence Toolkit](#)) to do so. There will be further guidance and support for the new process in the coming months. One change in presentation of MEQs responses is use of median scores, as this is more appropriate than the mean for Likert Scale data.

To aid in interpreting the results, please consider the three (3) following recommendations:

1. These evaluations stem from student perception, which implies that the validity increases proportionally with the number of occurrences. Any improvement plan should be based on the most representative results and less on outlying responses.
2. Upon getting a general sense of direction as to what requires improvement, it is important to drill down to the related questions and consider them as distinct items. They were evaluated as such by students, and will indicate tangible steps/actions to incorporate into your developmental process.
3. A Likert Scale was used in the evaluation forms, it is the most widely used approach to scaling responses in survey research and is the foundation of the student course-instructor feedback. For an accurate interpretation, be sure to keep the scale in mind when reading through your report.

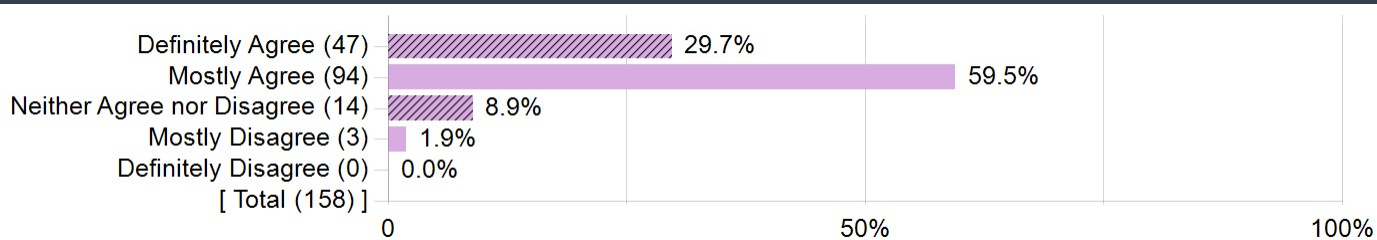
The Likert Scale:

- Definitely Agree (5)
- Mostly Agree (4)
- Neither Agree nor Disagree (3)
- Mostly Disagree (2)
- Definitely Disagree (1)

Should you be concerned about any comments please discuss with your Department and if needed, please apply to the [Durham Evaluations Unit](#) and request that the submission be removed.

## University Core Questions

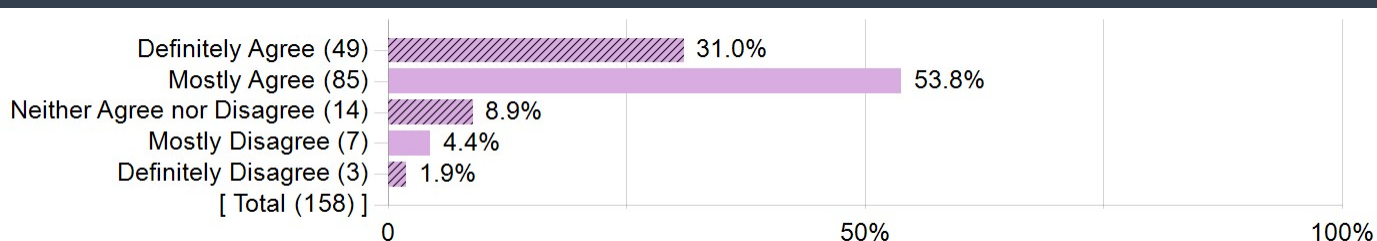
The *module* was well-organised and ran smoothly.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.66

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
The <i>module</i> was well-organised and ran smoothly.	0.66	4.00	0.90	4.00	0.91	4.00	0.87	4.00

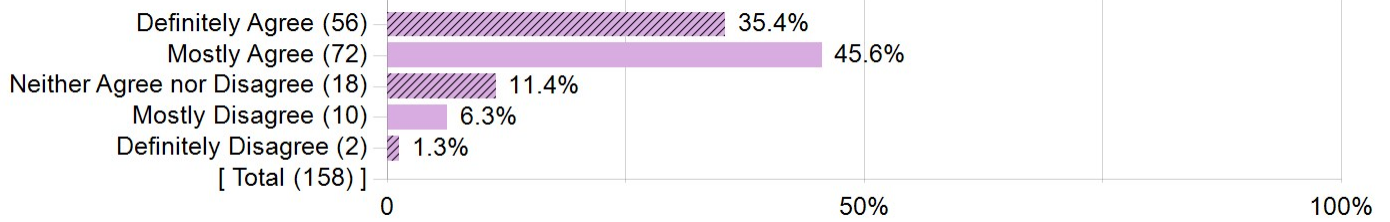
The *module* has challenged me to achieve my best work.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.86

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
The <i>module</i> has challenged me to achieve my best work.	0.86	4.00	0.90	4.00	0.90	4.00	0.89	4.00

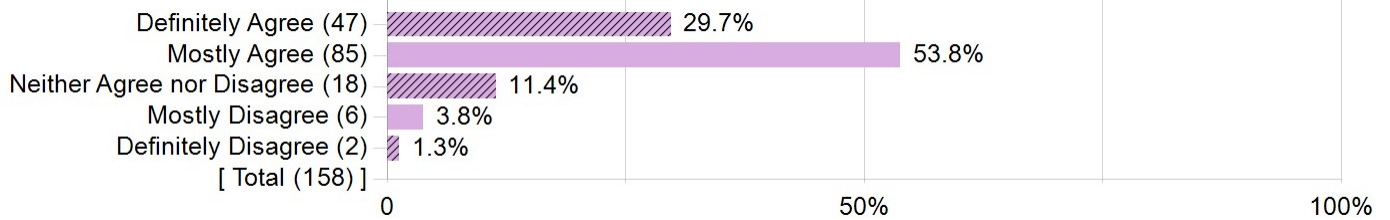
I have received helpful comments on my work.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.91

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
I have received helpful comments on my work.	0.91	4.00	0.98	4.00	0.96	4.00	1.01	4.00

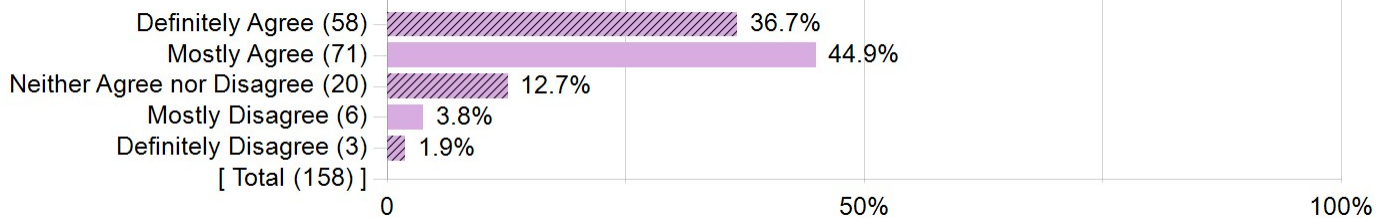
Staff are good at explaining things.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.82

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
Staff are good at explaining things.	0.82	4.00	0.84	4.00	0.88	4.00	0.90	4.00

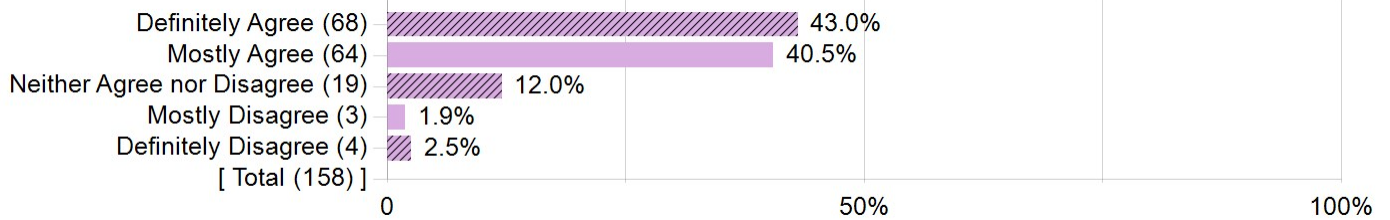
Staff have made the subject interesting.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.90

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
Staff have made the subject interesting.	0.90	4.00	0.95	4.00	0.97	4.00	0.98	4.00

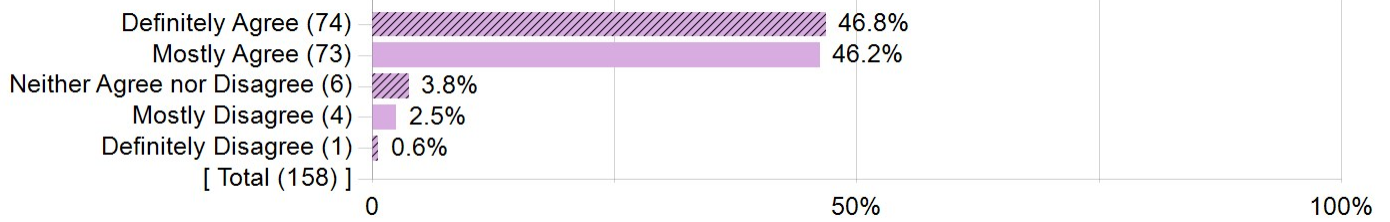
The *module* is intellectually stimulating.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.91

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
The <i>module</i> is intellectually stimulating.	0.91	4.00	0.93	4.00	0.91	5.00	0.89	5.00

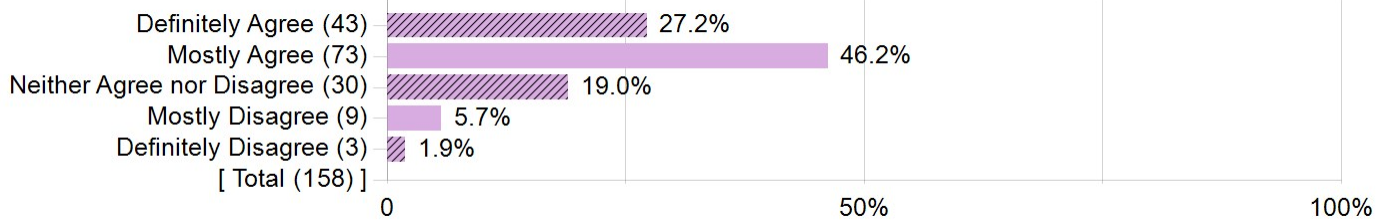
My *module* has provided me with opportunities to explore ideas or concepts in depth.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.73

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
My <i>module</i> has provided me with opportunities to explore ideas or concepts in depth.	0.73	4.00	0.85	4.00	0.87	5.00	0.88	4.00

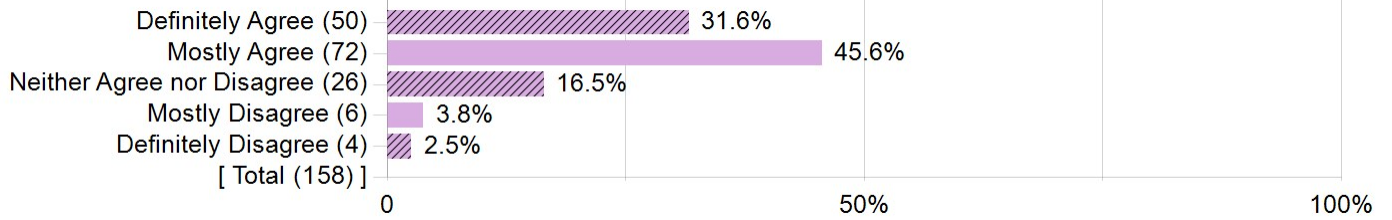
The criteria used in marking have been clear in advance.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.93

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
The criteria used in marking have been clear in advance.	0.93	4.00	1.02	4.00	1.00	4.00	1.02	4.00

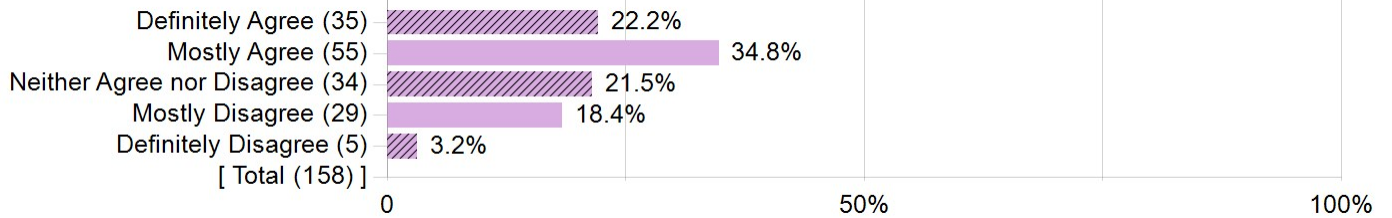
Marking and assessment has been fair.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.93

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
Marking and assessment has been fair.	0.93	4.00	0.93	4.00	0.91	4.00	0.89	4.00

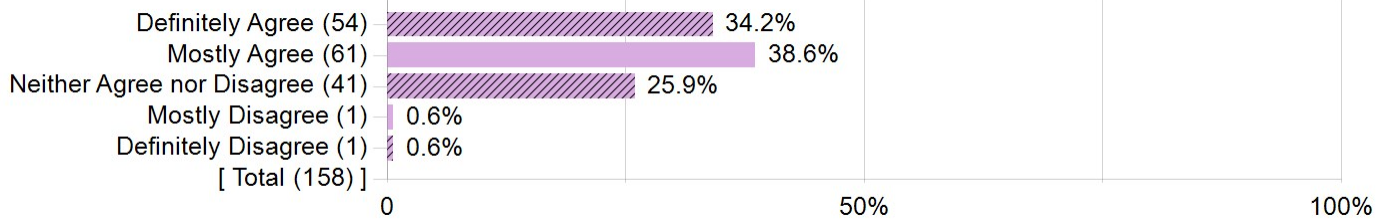
Feedback on my work has been timely.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.12

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
Feedback on my work has been timely.	1.12	4.00	1.17	4.00	1.06	4.00	1.06	4.00

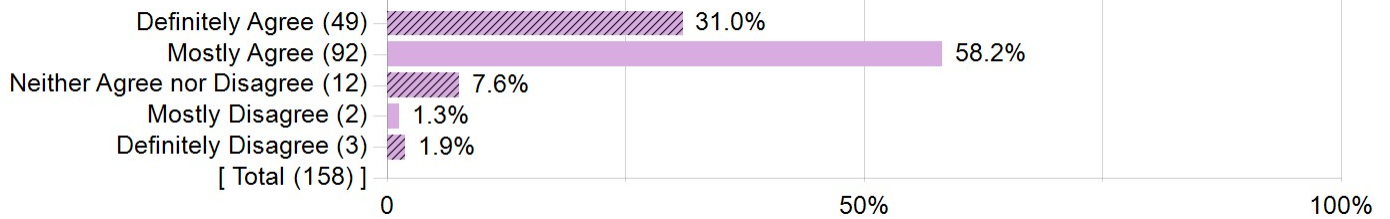
I have been able to contact staff when I needed to.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.83

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
I have been able to contact staff when I needed to.	0.83	4.00	0.87	4.00	0.84	5.00	0.81	5.00

Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of this *module*.

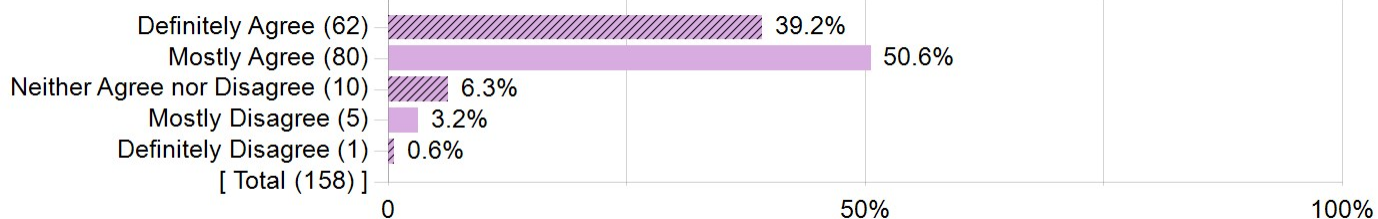


Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.77

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of this <i>module</i> .	0.77	4.00	0.96	4.00	0.95	4.00	0.94	4.00

## Staff Rating Questions

Overall I am satisfied with the quality of teaching / supervision provided on this module.



Statistics	Value
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.76

Question	This Module		Department (GEOG)		Faculty (F_SS)		University (UNIV)	
	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median	Standard Deviation	Median
Overall I am satisfied with the quality of teaching / supervision provided on this module.	0.76	4.00	0.81	4.00	0.84	5.00	0.84	5.00

## Lecturers

Overall I am satisfied with the quality of the "teaching" provided by ...

First Name	Last Name	Definitely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Definitely Disagree	Median	Standard Deviation
Marijn	Nieuwenhuis	27.3%	48.1%	16.2%	6.5%	1.9%	4.00	0.93



## University Core Reflective Questions

### Looking back on the *module*, are there any positive aspects you would like to highlight?

Comments
I really appreciated it when video clips were used to accompany ideas and examples as it helped to solidify my understanding.
my tutor cheng fang gave some excellent tutorials and very helpful essay feedback !! :)
You could tell that Erin felt very deeply about her lecture content, and this has meant that the lectures have been more memorable. Upon asking people about the human lectures most people say they remember Erin's the most.
Lectures were well planned and well taught. Even when challenging, teaching was comprehensive
I thoroughly enjoyed exploring The concept of Nature and Culture and the divide between them which allowed me to explore topics I have never studied before in more in depth detail.
I found the first two blocks the best as I think they were explained in a really clear, easy way to grasp the content. In the nature block though I liked that the pre readings were discussed in detail as it helped me to understand them a lot more.
I really enjoyed all of the tutorials, and thought that they provided a lot of insight into otherwise abstract ideas brought up in the lecture. I also enjoyed the lectures about maps in particular, as I thought they were made very interesting.
Found the nature bloc really interesting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I thought Ivans teaching of the human/nature block was done really well - I think the way he presents is much easier to take in especially if content is rather abstract - especially when it came to his online lectures</li> <li>- The worlds block (most recent) seemed like a bit of a waste of time - as a result of strikes I have very little idea what the module was actually aiming for and seems like a bit of a waste of time/money</li> </ul>
Honestly, this entire module was a delight to read for and attend. It had the right level of intellectual challenge without being overwhelming, and incorporated some interactive elements which were very welcome and enjoyable. Dr Torkelson in particular was one of my favourite lecturers from the year, always made the lectures fun but also thought-provoking, even when the material was abstract. The "walls, borders, flows" lecture was probably the single lecture I've attended which made me think the most, I was able to form an emotional connection to the material and see the more personal side of the issues discussed through the use of poetry and personal stories linked to the overarching concepts. Having said that, I've often commented to my friends and classmates this year about how all of my Human Geography lecturers have been outstanding, and I have always felt engaged and welcomed - you all deserve a pay rise!
good that we wrote a formative before our summative
Enjoyable tutorials, which help you to think about the subject in even more depth.
The response from professors on queries was to a high standard when clarification was needed.
I liked the block 3 module about nature/culture. I liked how passionate all of the lecturers were in explaining the concepts and bringing in examples to help illustrate that
Ivan and Phil's teaching was particularly engaging, making quite difficult concepts a lot easier to grasp.
The fact that the module was mostly in person has really helped my engagement.
The module was well organised and has provoked me to think deeper and with new insights into the world. Out of all the modules I chose this year, this one especially has had a large impact on my thought process and geographical lens, I am able to look at the world in a new and stimulating way.
The content was interesting and delivered in a stimulating way
Nature block was unique, really enjoyed exploring those concepts. Place was a really good grounding, good having it at the first block and scale built on well from it with links into the place block. Tilly's tutorials were brilliant, her feedback on exams was always so helpful and easy to apply to next pieces of work; got everyone involved in the tutorial and felt like a comfortable environment.
I thought the module changed what I thought Human Geography actually was - which in itself is quite interesting. Broadened my horizons into new, unique fields.
The lectures on decolonising the content of each block
Excellent course content, very interesting material and extra assignments
I enjoyed the nature lecture block in particular as the podcasts allowed me to explore the topic in a different way to all other modules.
The lecturers were all extremely passionate and engaging, especially Dr Torkelson.
I particularly enjoyed the first block of the module as Erin is a very engaging lecturer who is clearly very passionate about her subject. I also enjoyed the mix of reading styles in Ivan's lectures

Comments
I really enjoyed the first block on space, particularly the regular inclusion of real-world examples to back up the theory. It made the module much easier to understand, and this made essay writing much easier too.
Phil Steinberg's module on scale was particularly interesting. I really feel like I look at maps in a very different way now. Steinberg's teaching style is clear and engaging. Ivan Markovic also teaches in a clear and confident way, making a difficult topic easier to understand. My tutor, Ben Hildred was really good at getting me to think about the module myself and understand how it fits into my daily life.
All of the modules presented interesting ideas and concepts within the field of human geography. I felt that Ivan's module on Nature was a particular highlight, as it balanced theory and concepts with case studies nicely and was presented in a way that was easily understandable.
My tutorial leader was fantastic. She put a lot of effort into working on my essay techniques with me and I felt a clear improvement on my essay after her feedback and correspondence with me.
I really enjoyed the first block on 'Space and Place', I thought that it was very clearly laid out with clear expectations of reading and independent work. I found these sets of lectures highly engaging.
it all links very well – i found that everything became more understandable as time went on due to this
All of the lecturers have been very engaging to listen to.
My tutor, Leah Edwards, was amazing and made the tutorials an area where I could develop my understanding of the content and bounce ideas off others. Also, her feedback on my formative and summative essays was really helpful and constructive. Ivan was an excellent lecturer and setting PowerPoints that were under 15 slides was extremely helpful and should be copied by other lecturers. Phil and Erin were both extremely passionate about their modules which made it easier for me to understand them and enjoy the content.
The use of podcasts as a substitute for some recommended reading in the Nature block was good, it was a nice break from reading difficult articles and books and was far more engaging. Space and place was my favourite block but it was (in my opinion) the least philosophical and was more concrete, I could understand how it applied to the world rather than just taking the lecturer's word for it.
The further reading material provided was really helpful and interesting. Ivan Markovitch was really engaging and went into so much depth on his lectures and really made the topics come to life and showed the links between topics and concepts which really made you think.
Interesting and varied topics, making me think about the world around me
Very engaging lecturers, in-depth study into the issues discussed, constructive feedback on the essays
I liked how enthusiastic all of the lecturers were. I could tell they all very much cared about the content they were teaching. This made the module more engaging for me.
the tutorial was fantastic
This module is a very interesting and thought provoking, definitely not what I expected out of human geography but certainly a nice surprise– Space and Place encouraged me to look at my own personal experience of the world in a way that I had never considered before. The use of more modern and relevant literature made the idea of reading engaging and made what we were learning feel more relevant to everyday life. Scale provided a fascinating insight on looking at the way in which maps, impacts or measurements have their own individual concepts. Phil's use of examples within lectures and the way that he explained what he was doing in such detail made his messages easy to follow and pick up on. Nature was certainly the most challenging module. The origins of Cartesian Dualism and Lockian Theory on property were particularly engaging and were not only useful in Human Geography but in my other modules too. Worlds was unfortunately hit by the majority of strikes but the content within it was certainly interesting and engaging. Particularly the idea of Sand Worlds and how they are viewed within media and literature was particularly engaging. Furthermore, the tutorials (mine being led by Leah Edwards) were a great opportunity to put our understanding into practice.
I particularly enjoyed block 3 and the sections of block 1 and 2 which focussed on maps.
Tutorials were very useful in discussing major themes in each block which allowed me to review my understanding of the block in reference to my own and my peers examples. I particularly enjoyed Ivan's block on nature.
really enjoyed the nature block
In Block 3 the use of podcasts alongside 'traditional' readings helped to break up the reading tasks and at times meant I took more of the information in.
The structure of the blocks.
Liked the abstract way of looking at Human Geography, it has challenged me to think about the way i learn and accumulate

Comments
knowledge has often been one-sided or bias toward a western perspective. Enjoyed scale and looking at maps as well as space and place. very capitative lecturers.
The first block was very well organised and made the content really interesting I liked the activities that were set, encouraging us to go beyond the basic level of engagement
Erin Tolkenson, Marijn and Ivan have a lot of passion for their lectures and really gave a strong start that gave me enthusiasm for the subject. Ivan's teaching of nature and culture was genuinely inspiring and has led to influence my thinking in daily life, extremely interesting and well executed topic
The political geography aspects of the module were very interesting to me.
Tutor – Tilly Hall – Really helpful and great tutorials where we were always pushed to think differently or broaden knowledge of a topic.
This was a really interesting module, with a really new (for me), challenging way of approaching the subject of human geography which was enjoyable
Enjoyed tutorials with Tilly Hall, she was very engaging, friendly, and always very helpful. Also enjoyed Ivans block
I really enjoyed the energy and passion of the human lecturers about their subjects, it made the material a joy to learn
The 4 lecture blocks were well structured with reading provided a few days in advance of the lecture to allow adequate preparation before each lecture. I particularly appreciated that the 'Nature' block had some podcasts as essential preparation as this provided a different and perhaps more efficient way of doing the essential reading. The 'Scale' block was very well taught by Phil who was engaging and kept his lectures to a good length whereby all information was provided in a coherent and precise manner. The 'Space and Place' block was also taught by Erin in an engaging manner which ensured you were always listening and prepared to contribute in the lecture. The videos provided by the teaching staff on essay writing were useful prior to the summative essay.
Particularly enjoyed the Scale block and Worlds block, despite the latter being caught up in strikes, the content was particularly interesting and enjoyable.
N/A
The inclusivity of suggested concepts within lectures and assignments, majorly due to the abstract nature of the module. The enthusiasm in the lecturers.
The branching into other trails of thought and ideas, from various subjects allowing room for our own ideas to be explored all within the breadth of the question.
A levels had a section on 'space and place' and I enjoyed going further with this in the first block of lectures. I particularly enjoyed the lecture on 'Spaces of Sovereignty' which changed my thinking lots. Lectures on mapping in the scale block were also very interesting. The lectures on decolonising were also something I had not considered much before, and have altered my thinking about many things.
I enjoyed how the first 2 blocks were taught as there were lots of examples and case studies provided, which gave a more thorough understanding of the theories. The lecturers were also very enthusiastic about the content, which made it more enjoyable. The tutorials were led in a way that made it accessible and I felt comfortable sharing and discussing my opinion with others. Additionally, the feedback for my formative and summative essays was very helpful and encouraging.
I found the concepts covered very interesting. I liked how the module was split into clear sections but still flowed. I also liked the clear reading list for each lecture, which made further reading into interesting concepts much easier.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The lectures were well organised and mostly had a manageable amount of information covered per lecture.</li> <li>– The staff were good at explaining things and I enjoyed the content of the module for this reason, as personally I think if someone can explain something well to me then I enjoy it more.</li> <li>– The lecturers (especially Erin) were passionate and engaging.</li> </ul>
Strikes obviously were disappointing in the sense that we could not complete the module but overall it was a good module and an introduction to human geography going forwards
Ivan was good
The block on space/place was particularly good, the style of teaching was great. I loved how interactive and engaging the lectures were.
The first block of the module was over politicised to a degree unacceptable in addition to the ludicrous woke and radically left wing takes on most things, without mentioning the daft decolonialisation programme.
I liked how all the blocks link together and staff use some similar examples across blocks which can be linked.
the variation is module content, reading recommendations and further research support – Ivan as a lecturer very engaging
Each lecture includes a slide of summary notes is very helpful Using daily examples are very effective
Very interesting topics were discussed across the module with reference to relevant case studies and contemporary news but still allowed space for further research. Tutorials are structured well to allow for both general and in-depth discussion on the previous

Comments
lecture block, especially since the conversation structure allows for hearing other people's thoughts and opinions.
First block on space and place was brilliant. Really engaging lectures and readings.
My tutorial leader Tilly Hall was fantastic, she was the most helpful tutorial leader I have had this year and always made the extra effort to help and support the group. Her feedback from the formative essay was helpful in writing the summative report, the tutorials were engaging and everybody was always involved in discussion amongst the group.
the blocks on space and scale were very interesting and set the tone for the rest of the module. they were also engaging
I really enjoyed the Space and Place block as the lectures were really engaging. They were engaging because they didn't have too many slides, Erin also asked questions to people and the reading was put in relation to the lecture. The block on Scale was also good as it linked to many different geographical theories and concepts. My favorite block was the one on Nature as it was something that I had never thought about which really encouraged engagement. The final block, Worlds, felt really disjointed due to the strikes and I don't really feel as comfortable with this block. The quotes throughout the lectures were useful but I questioned some of the relevance. I would also like to highlight how amazing my tutorials were with Tilly Hall. Tilly included everyone in the discussions and really helped develop my understanding.
The space and place block was really interesting and delivered really well.
I have high praise for some of the lecturers in this module, as they were some of my favourite in the Geography department. I felt more inspired and intellectually stimulated by the ways in which Philip Steinberg and Ivan Markovic taught there Blocks, and thoroughly enjoyed those two blocks, in particular, although the whole module was a success.

### Looking back on the *module*, are there any aspects you think could be improved?

Please mention any additional resources or opportunities that would have helped you to achieve your best work.

Comments
I found that the tutorials could sometimes not be that relevant to the content covered in the lectures and/or didn't really add anything to the content already covered. But I did find them very interactive.
some of the lectures appeared to talk about content a little unrelated to the course and the academic discipline of geography, i felt that some lectures did not have a clear premise
a description of marking criteria and rubric before we actually wrote our first essays, and how this would be implemented
Really inconsistent marking. The topics covered were very abstract and not engaging whatsoever. A lot of the time was spent learning about things that weren't 'Human Geography' despite the name of the module.
Some lecturers would overrun on the lecture. Whilst not too problematic in person, when catching up online/watching back past lectures, the video gets cut off. Lecture notes might be helpful to summarise what lectures covered.
Being more of a Physical Geographer, I think some of the lectures especially in the ' Worlds' did not stimulate me in the same way possibly other lectures in this block and other modules. I think this could be due to a lack of understanding and subsequent interpretation of the topics discussed.
I think the nature and world blocks were harder to grasp due to their more conceptual nature so I struggled to engage with the content. I think in the nature block, I especially struggled due to the lack of content on the lecture slides, meaning that it took me longer to be able to identify the key points within each lecture.
I think that we could have been given more guidance on how to structure our own reading, as it is quite a daunting prospect to tackle alone at first.
Bit of confusion around strikes and content. Although the staff made sure to inform us on content that was missed in a timely manner.
I think it could be more simplified – as human geography at uni is far more abstract in terms of its conventional thinking it would be easier if it was laid out more simply – I imagine most people at school didn't go into ideas such as 'writing worlds' or the 'ontological turn' as examples – it seems very philosophical at times which for first years at uni may not even have any idea what you are trying to discuss let alone understand it
as a physical geographer, i do not believe that I should have to do a compulsory module on a course I have not chosen
Some of the concepts were complex and vague, and could have been explained more precisely and clearly. especially when considering more conceptual ideas
if lectures are missed due to strikes dont just jump to the next one re do it and miss out the final ones – otherwise its very confusing and lacks understanding
None

Comments
To have more variety, some examples (that could mean a lot to some people) were skimmed over.
I think they could have been faster to mark to summative essays as we don't have that long to look and try to work on the feedback for our end of year exams
I think you need to remember that most people haven't come across this more theoretical side of the social sciences before. Human Geography at A-Level focuses much more on 'real life' concepts, and so I've found that a lot of people have been unpleasantly surprised at the content of Human Geography. I understand that you can't exactly change the content of the discipline, but more guidance should be given to us in this change to a more theoretical look into the subject.
I think a look at data in Human Geography instead of one of the more theoretical blocks (like 'Nature' or 'Worlds') would be good, as this is an important aspect of Geography. For example, Monica Stephens is a Human Geographer but her research doesn't seem to involve too much theory that can't easily be related to everyday life. I think this would provide a bit more balance to the module.
Also, I feel like the lecturers personal politics should be left out of lectures where possible. I felt that Erin's lectures were particularly biased towards the left. It's not that I don't agree with points that she has made, but I do feel like the very first time we learn something should be relatively unbiased, and the critical analysis should be left for the readings.
Granted block 4 was heavily impacted by strike action, I did however feel that more work on connecting this final block to the others could have been done.
Furthermore, as a physical geographer, I felt that the module did become very philosophical at points throughout. And though interesting, I did get lost at points, so perhaps more of an outline or a timeline perhaps of how literature and scholarly thinking has changed over time would have been useful.
I don't think the content affected by the strikes was handled in a great way... the block felt totally disconnected with what felt like random content delivered without cohesion
Worlds block was largely affected by the strikes so this could have impacted, but this block could have been better explained maybe by going into certain concepts more deeply and not doing a large overview on so many things. Potentially could help by doing 'deep dives' into a key reading for the week like Ivan did in his 'post-truth' block (geographies of crisis) as sometimes the readings felt scarcely linked to what we were learning.
I thought at some points words lacked meaning and everything seemed slightly subjective. I found this in particular in the block on nature-culture. I had to dig deeper and harder to find meanings that made sense to myself. Although at the same time this stimulated me a bit more and made it probably my most productive block.
/
Increased variety of tutorial material, seemed very repetitive and not that useful to developing on content
N/A
Some of the more "out there" aspects of human geography felt a bit unrelated/insignificant, however this is just a facet of the subject and my personal preferences and is not really a comment on the teaching, which was brilliant.
I would say that the last block of the module on world suffered due to strike action- but what we did have of it was very engaging. Although Erin's lectures were very engaging, it was a challenge at times to keep up with the pace of lectures
I struggled to grasp the concepts in the worlds module, i think this was partly due to the interference of the strikes.
Tutorials were of little help due to communication issues from the tutorial leader. Marking of summatives were very unclear with only vague points of how to improve
I find Marijn Nieuwenhuis often makes topics difficult to understand as he doesn't speak clearly or in a way that makes me engaged.
I think at times there needs to be a greater balance between theory and case study. There were points in the Space/Place and Scale module where I felt as if I had a lot of case studies but was not entirely sure how to tie them all together with specific ideas and theories.
I think the last set of lectures on 'Worlds' felt like it wasn't thought through. Whilst the strikes were unavoidable, I feel like there was no planning around them - with lectures not being adjusted to make sense inspite of others being cancelled. This made this block feel confusing and unclear. In addition, each lecture in this block was overpacked and meant that the ending was never reached. It just felt like the whole block was incomplete and redundant.
could have used some example essays to past questions to help understand what you are actually looking for
It would have been nice to receive a bit more feedback on the self directed tasks
more updated and varied readings, in certain areas there is too much focus on certain authors and their ideas, particularly in scale. more applied and modern issues would also make the module more interesting. instead of covering maps for most of the module, discussing refugees, geopolitics, populations, tourism... would be more interesting.
I found the content of the final block to be too philosophical for geography, even for a human geographer such as myself.

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<p>Also, because of the strikes, Marijn had to finish some lectures half way through which affected the subsequent lectures and made it difficult to keep track of where we were with the content.</p> <p>I do acknowledge that it was because of the strikes and because Marijn was giving us developments and information about them, but I still think that could be improved.</p> <p>Finally, I thought some of the tasks for the tutorials were quite basic, such as making maps, and didn't challenge me.</p>
<p>Some of the concepts such as more than human could have been made clearer. The content of this module was far more philosophical than I had thought it would be and was completely different to A Level human geography. It didn't even feel like the same subject. This might be because I'm BSc and not BA but I found the blocks (especially nature and worlds) to be too metaphysical and abstract. It often felt like I was doing a Philosophy module which is not something I enjoyed. But then again I do BSc not BA so the module wouldn't be for me anyway</p>
<p>Some of the more abstract topics covered– like Scale, maps, positionality, space– were really unengaging and taught in a way that just didnt make us want to learn about them. There was a lot of repetition, especially in the scale topic, it seemed as if the content could have been one lecture instead of weeks of the same reiterated points. A lot of lecturers made points or brought in quotes or references, but didnt actually mention who the reference for it was, so I couldn't look it up or use it at all because it had no basis.</p>
<p>Some stuff seemed not to link to the rest of the block or module</p>
<p>Strikes really disrupted the flow of the last block (worlds) so I do not feel that I was ever able to grasp the concepts of this module.</p>
<p>I think the course did seem quite politically motivated at times, especially the Place and Space lectures. This isn't a massive issue however I think it would have been more enriching to hear options across the whole political spectrum rather than a single political view.</p>
<p>the lecture time for human geography was late or early for one specific day</p>
<p>I'm not sure if it can be helped but this year, especially in the first term I found it really difficult that across modules I found the timings of assignments frustrating as all were completed before we had any feedback so I felt that there was no progression as I was writing multiple essays not being able to act on feedback and improve.</p>
<p>My main issue is the time taken for us to have received feedback on our submitted essays. When we did receive it, it felt a bit last minute or 'because we had to'. In future, either make it more clear how long it will take for us to get feedback for our submitted work and try to not make it so soon before our next essay being due. Students want to be able to feel like the feedback they get is relevant and that they don't have to re-understand their essays so long afterwards.</p>
<p>Like in Physical Geography, I would have liked for there to be lectures in term 3 bringing the blocks together to form an integrated module. This could be done by summarising each block and then discussing important links and interconnectivity between the content in each block. Currently there seems to be major separation between the teaching staff and the content they teach.</p>
<p>I was marked the same as students without dyslexia despite not being able to access my dyslexia support at the time meaning where I lost marks was generally to do with my disability.</p>
<p>I don't think the Learning Activities/tasks for the tutorials had a great effect. They sometimes seemed detached from the topic we were currently studying</p>
<p>N/a</p>
<p>I think that the information given for the summative was slightly confusing. The advice I was given by my supervisor was slightly different to the feedback I got on my essay. I think it would have been beneficial to be given more clarity for the essay titles since they are our first attempt at human geography summative.</p>
<p>The idea of 'analysis' on my work, it's a comment I get a lot (not just on this module), and it seems very vague and extremely hard to improve on. usually I had to trim my essays down so finding room for 'analysis' is difficult. I find the definition of 'analysis' to be antithetical to the idea that our essays need a singular clear through–line, making up one singular point.</p>
<p>The tutorials could have been more related to either the lectures, a specific concept/article or beneficial to the essays. I felt that they lacked a focus in terms of a learning outcome and came out of them feeling like I had achieved nothing. Also the contacts hours were heavily impacted by strike action which had the obvious detrimental impacts on learning, especially only having 3 of the 4 tutorials.</p>
<p>Feedback on summative very late.</p>
<p>Personally I didn't enjoy the last module nearly as much as the others but this was probably just were my own interest lay within the subject</p>
<p>Felt like the module wasn't really an introduction to human geography and making a lecture or two at the start on concepts of human geography would have been beneficial. A lot of my time was spent understanding what lectures meant when they used more elaborate vocabulary rather than understanding the content. The world block felt disjointed (strikes?) however, where there were strikes I would have liked to have seen lectures changed so that the ones we did have followed on.</p>
<p>It would be good to have a better handle of what is expected of our essays/ how we should structure them/ key themes that should run throughout . I feel like I have more just had to adapt as I went along</p>
<p>The 'Worlds' block in my opinion was poorly taught as all the lectures we received considerably ran over the designated time</p>

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meaning that the following lecture was cut short which led to a domino effect of material each lecture being missed. I feel that we needed more tutorials as personally 4 isn't enough to aid in learning the lecture material; 8 would probably provide a more in-depth understanding of the lecture material and allow a stronger relationship to develop between students and the GTA's. I think I would've benefited from another formative essay assessment prior to the summative as having never written a university Human Geography essay before my summative could have been better if I'd have had more practice opportunities. The formative feedback received was useful but was given when the summative essay assessment was nearly due so needs to be given out quicker in order to have the most impact.
Concepts are very difficult and would be better explained with examples– this was only really done in Ivan's module
Length of power-points in the Worlds Block meant that elements had to be finished in following lectures, putting the students even further behind.
In the first block of the module, there was definitely a bias in opinion within the trails of thoughts and ideas, which were at times i believe irrelevant as they felt almost forced upon in our way of thinking. However, i did still enjoy it along with the other modules
The lecture on semiotics in the Scale block began at a higher level of understanding than I had, so I didn't understand all the terms used before I researched. The strike disruption of the worlds block meant I couldn't easily follow their narrative so became less engaged with the content, though I understand this is out of lecturers' control.
I struggled most with the content of the final block (Worlds) and I think this could have been aided with more case studies to grasp the more theoretical ideologies.
better feedback – more accurate in telling students HOW to improve— also making feedback consistent across the board — inputting peer reviews etc. as I felt that formative essay was marked completely different from summative and this doesnt help me improve and isnt really a productive way of teaching more intellectually stimulating and relevant tutorial concepts — colouring in and creative writing were not something I was really expecting at uni and feel that they could have challenged us more and related the concepts covered to real world and relevant issues which would have actually improved my experience of both the degree but also the module for this year
I did not always find the tutorials to be particularly engaging.
– No real comments to make about resources. However, personally, I thought Marijn could have been a bit livelier to make his lectures more engaging overall. – Overall, very few improvements would be necessary to make this module better :)
The module was quite philosophical at times which having no prior knowledge and understanding of this, I struggled to understand elements – this is particularly relevant to the nature block. More tutorials would have been useful to discuss topics.
It isn't immediately clear how the lecture content can be folded into an essay structure. I struggle with structuring an argument in an essay based on the lecture structures.
I don't think physical geographers should be forced to do human geography when it is so different to physical
I was disappointed with the support given from staff, I asked a question and was not allowed an answer (As the module had already finished). Although I understand the inconvenience of asking a question a few days after the module had finished, questions about content crop up over time, thus I was upset when I was not given an answer. In future, I hope that lecturers promote engagement with topics throughout the year, not only when the module is taking place.
End the whole nonsense and also end the decolonialisation stuff
Only real aspects of disruption would be the strikes but they were understandable – tutorials could have possibly been more linked to the work done in lectures (did feel connected but not very useful personally for example I didnt particularly learn anything extra from them that i could recall helping my understanding)
New concepts can try to explain in more simple way. For example like idealism, discourse
Would like a more diverse reading list with podcasts/ videos alongside readings (like in block 2) since this made the readings more engaging and helped with developing skills using different sources.
Some of the readings for this module weren't all that interesting. Personally I found it quite hard to focus and learn some of the lecture content as it was so abstract.
There was little encouragement to think for yourself or find / research views counter to what the lecturers were saying – the lecturers created an atmosphere where you felt you had to agree with what you were saying in your essays otherwise you would be marked down. Not that I would disagree with much of their content, but it would be nice to be exposed to a wide range of opinions rather than having one displayed as fact which seemed to be the case in this module.
Lacking in interest for those studying physical geography, concepts are far too abstract to cover in first year geography. The subjects within the module didn't fill me with confidence when moving through my first year of studying at Durham. The concepts presented weren't engaging from a physical geography perspective, I don't feel as though I've really learned anything from human geography as pretty much all the content was abstract theories and concepts, rather than putting human geography into a practical use. Would've enjoyed human geography much more if subjects like migration, geopolitics, globalisation, were covered in first year. I

## Comments

found these subjects interesting at A-level, and would've considered taking some of these modules for second year if we had covered them in first year. Instead, I've just been put off by taking and human geography modules, far too abstract from a physical geography perspective. I think the human geography module should be optional for those not taking it as their degree, and instead put in another physical geography module. I'm sure the human geographers would agree vice versa. Or likewise, if a module option like "philosophy of human geography" was a choice, and other subjects were covered in the human geography module, I would've found this much more beneficial from a physical geographer perspective.

As a physical geographer I found many of the concepts discussed in this module fairly abstract and philosophical, and it has certainly reaffirmed for me that I prefer the more scientific aspects of geography. The module was taught with flair by the staff, especially the first block on Space/Place, however, I found the last block on Worlds to be confusing and was unable to fully grasp the concepts of these lectures. I love to learn and therefore found it interesting to learn about things from a more philosophical perspective in order to gain another understanding of the world, however, I would have preferred to have had the option to take two physical geography-related modules this year instead of the core human module.

I have found the lack of seminars/tutorials to be present across all geography modules, and as a result I believe that students are not engaging in the content to the maximum potential, and would gain more skills and knowledge through the addition of more tutorials/seminars across the department.

the block on worlds was a difficult concept to understand, maybe more time could have been allocated to this module to understand it better.

I think that some of the lectures had too many slides which then didn't get completed. I also think that more tutorials or seminars would be useful to discuss the concepts more in detail.

It would be helpful if there were more seminars to allow a more practical approach. Case studies would also be welcome – encouraging the theories to be learnt with relevance to the world around us

It was a shame to miss 4 lectures in Block 4: Worlds but I was slightly sceptical of some of the lectures which we had; namely on Embodied Worlds and Hearing Worlds, as I did not quite see the relevance to the rest of the Block. I may have missed the part when the relevance was explained but I felt that I had not understood the reason for studying these lectures.