Module Code: AD – 4311  
Module Title: Virtual Geographies, Space and Culture  
Type of Module: Core  
Modular Credits: 4  
Student Workload: 8 - 10 hours per week  
Contact hours: 3 - 4 hours per week  
Prerequisite: None  
Antirequisite: None  
Aims/Objectives/Rationale:

Online mediated spaces are no longer conceptualised as spaces detached from offline, everyday experiences. Online space has become an avenue for everyday social interactions; an extension of the offline; and an everyday space. These spaces are as important as offline spaces in our day to day activities. As these online/virtual/cyber spaces become more pertinent in our everyday lives, it is imperative that studies focusing on socio-cultural development of a society look into how online spaces are used and experienced every day. The use of new social media, for example, is so ingrained in our everyday activities that their (new social media) significance is now less about their role in one’s life, but more about how they (new social media) are being used by individuals. Thus this module aims to engage students in the critical exploration of online/virtual/cyberspace as a socio-cultural and geographical space; to engage students in the online-offline space debate; to appreciate that online and offline spaces (and experiences within) are mutually constitutive; and to explore the nuances in users’ experiences on the online space.

Module Content:

- Virtual Geographies - An Introduction  
- Conceptualising Online Space: Online/Virtual/Cyber  
- The Death of Physical Place and the Rise of Online Space  
- Cultural Identity Online  
- Virtual Cultures and Communities  
- Religious Spaces Online  
- Online Relationships Dynamics (including Parenting Online)  
- Mobile Media, Mobility and Space  
- Social Interactions and Engagements (including Cosmopolitanism)

Assessment:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination:</th>
<th>Coursework:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3 essays</td>
<td>20% Project Report (3000 words)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20% (4 x 5%) Critical Reviews (1500 words)</td>
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60%  
40%