Module Descriptor

Title	Policy Analysis and Practice		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	
Code	SSPG11003	**SCQF Level**	11
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	A van der Zwet		

Summary of Module

This module has been designed to appeal those students with an interest in working, or already working, in local, devolved or central government, third sector organisations and civil society organisations. In the module students will gain experience of applying key concepts and theories used in academic literature on civil society and public affairs to complex and real policy environments. It offers students the opportunity to apply theoretical concepts and research skills to the practical understanding of public services and affairs. The module includes:

- The techniques of policy analysis
- The evaluation of complex interventions
- Case studies which highlight the politics of public policy
- Multi-actor policy-making and systems approaches

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]** ☒	**Hybrid[2]** ☐	**Online[3]** ☐	**Work -Based Learning[4]** ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate originality or creativity the analysis and evaluation of public policy
L2	Demonstrate critical understanding of the impact of multiple actors in complex environments
L3	Demonstrate leadership and/or initiative within regards to partnership-working with external organisations
L4	Synthesise information from a variety of sources, including academic research publications, to offer sound and distinct insights on chosen research topic
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 11** A critical understanding of a range of theories and techniques of policy analysis.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** Applying a range of evaluative tools to understand the dynamics and impacts of multiple actors on the policy process
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** Demonstrate the ability to conduct analysis, evaluation and synthesis
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Demonstrate the ability to communicate, using appropriate methods, to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge/expertise
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 11** Exercise substantial autonomy and initiative in carrying out learning activities. Take responsibility for own work and contribute to the collective learning activities of the group in ways which support and develop critical reflection

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.

Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	Student Learning Hours (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	24
Personal Development Plan	12
Independent Study	154
Asynchronous Class Activity	10
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Massey, A., & Johnston, K. (Eds.). (2015). The International Handbook of Public Administration and Governance. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Dodds, A. (2012). Comparative public policy. Palgrave Macmillan.

Wu, X., Ramesh, M., Howlett, M., & Fritzen, S. (2012). The public policy primer: managing the policy process. Routledge.

Peters, B. G., and J. Pierre, (Eds). (2003). Handbook of Public Administration. London: Sage.

Parsons, W. (1997). Public Policy. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Connolly, J. and van der Zwet, A. (2020) Public Value Management, Governance and Reform, Palgrave MacMillan

Cairney, P. (2019). Understanding public policy: theories and issues. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Knill, C and Tosun, J. (2012), Public Policy: A New Introduction, Palgrave Macmillan

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

All fulltime students (part-time and distant learning students should check with their programme leader for any queries) are required to attend all scheduled classes and participate with all delivered elements of the module as part of their engagement with their programme of study. Consideration will be given to students who have protection under the appropriate equality law. Please refer to UWS Regulations, Chapter 1, 1.64 – 1.67, available at

the following link: http://www.uws.ac.uk/current-students/rights-and-regulations/regulatory-framework/

Equality and Diversity
The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code. Aligned with the overall commitment to equality and diversity stated in the Programme Specifications, the module supports equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds and with different learning needs. Using Moodle, learning materials will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content (part-time and distant learning students should check with their programme leader for any queries). The module complies with University regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. Specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policy can be accessed at the following link: http://www.uws.ac.uk/equality/ Our partners are fully committed to the principles and practice of inclusiveness and our modules are designed to be accessible to all. Where this module is delivered overseas, local equivalent support for students and appropriate legislation applies. UWS Equality and Diversity Policy
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Social Sciences**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	PG Social Sciences
Moderator	M Arnott
External Examiner	M Ketola
Accreditation Details	None
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Poster and annotated bibliography- 2000 words (Employment-focused mock recruitment exercise)(40% weighted)
Assessment 2
Improvement/evaluation project - 3000 words (60% weighted

Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Poster and annotated bibliography- 2000 words	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	40	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Improvement/evaluation project - 3000 words	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	60	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**