Module Descriptor

Title	Social Sciences Dissertation		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	Running
Code	10027	**SCQF Level**	10
Credit Points	40	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	20
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	A van der Zwet		

Summary of Module

The Social Sciences Dissertation is a significant part – 40 credits - of the Honours year and runs across Term 1 and 2. The module requires students to research and write a dissertation linked to the Social Sciences programme. Support is two-fold. First, whole class sessions which consist of two general support and a number of specific support sessions which cover methods and research design topics. Second, students will benefit from one-to-one support sessions with an allocated dissertation supervisor. The support enables students to undertake an independent piece of research, building on the skills they have developed over the previous three years particularly through the L9 "Designing Your Dissertation Project" module and feedback on its final assessment. The Social Sciences Dissertation module will develop important analytical and project management skills which students can transfer beyond university and into the workplace.

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	Critically identify, define, and conceptualise an appropriate topic for research within the social sciences.
L2	Undertake a systematic review and analysis of relevant and appropriate primary and secondary sources.
L3	Execute a defined research project using appropriate research methodologies and techniques of enquiry.
L4	Critically evaluate, analyse, and present research findings
L5	Communicate complex theories, ideas, concepts, and findings in appropriate audio/visual or written form

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 10** The demonstration of a broad and integrated knowledge of principal areas, features and boundaries that define the social sciences. The demonstration of a critical understanding of central theories, principles, ideas, arguments, and debates within the social sciences. The demonstration of a critical knowledge and understanding of the relationship between the theory and the practice of research within the social sciences.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 10** The execution of a defined research project in an area related to the social science disciplines. The application of appropriate social science methodologies and methods to the practice of research. The ability to gather, retrieve, synthesize and apply information from appropriate primary and/or secondary sources.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 10** The critical evaluation and analysis of complex and contested ideas and concepts within the social sciences. The critical review of knowledge, understanding skills and practice within social science research. Judging, evaluating, and synthesizing contested concepts and data in the production of cogent argument.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 10** The communication and interpretation of quantitative and/or qualitative data in the production of a written thesis. The development in key skills relating to the use and application of research software. The development of digital literacy in the use of online research engines and tools.
Autonomy, Accountability	**SCQF 10**

and Working with Others	The ability to undertake independent, self-directed study to achieve negotiated goals. To work effectively and reflectively with a supervisor. To consider complex ethical issues with a framework of defined codes of practice, seeking supervisory guidance where appropriate

Prerequisites	**Module Code** SOCY09056	**Module Title** Designing your Dissertation Project (SCQF Level 9)
	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	4
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	6
Asynchronous Class Activity	10
Laboratory / Practical Demonstration / Workshop	26
Independent Study	354
Please select	
TOTAL	400

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Bryman, A. (2012) Social Research Methods. 4th edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Cottrell, S (2014) Dissertations and Project Reports London: Palgrave Rudestam, K.J. and Newton, R.R (2015) Surviving your dissertation: A comprehensive guide to content and process. 4th edn. London: Sage
(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 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/rightsand-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 Aula, learning materials will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and manipulation of content. 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.
(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	ESS
Moderator	Teaching Team
External Examiner	U Mukherjee
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Literature Review Chapter (2000 words) (15%)
Assessment 2

Dissertation (10 000 words) (85%)
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**
Written	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	15%	

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Written	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	85%	

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**
New template	Mar 25	G Rice