University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 202425

Title of Module: Contemporary Social Issues			
Code: CGAD11002	SCQF Level: 11 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 20	ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator:	I McPhee		

Summary of Module
This module will examine a range of contemporary social issues, drawing on various case studies and research across sociology, political science, policy, criminal justice, and cultural studies. The module seeks to analyse the complex interrelationships between public and policymakers, key stakeholders, and social movement groups as they attempt to define and address the major social problems and issues of today. Students are encouraged to critically analyse the evidence base for social and public policy, the role of non-governmental groups (both national and international) in the policy-making process, and to consider how contemporary issues of public concern are defined, communicated, and then addressed/resolved. The module explicitly fosters a comparative, intersectional and interdisciplinary perspective. Students are encouraged to explore how different topics of concern across the social sciences are addressed in - and between - different disciplinary fields, and how research is used outside academia to inform policy and inform/shape public opinion. • Introduces critical approaches to understand contemporary social issues. • Engages students evaluating research data and academic and sources of evidence. • Engages students in critical evaluation and effective use of social sciences methods.

Module Delivery Method					
Face-To-Face	Blended	Fully Online	HybridC	Hybrid 0	Work-Based Learning
☒	☒	☐	☒	☐	☐
See Guidance Note for details.					

Campus(es) for Module Delivery

The module will **normally** be offered on the following campuses / or by Distance/Online Learning: (Provided viable student numbers permit) (tick as appropriate)						
Paisley:	Ayr:	Dumfries:	Lanarkshire:	London:	Distance/Online Learning:	Other:
☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	☐	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☐

Learning Outcomes: (maximum of 5 statements) **These should take cognisance of the SCQF level descriptors and be at the appropriate level for the module.** At the end of this module the student will be able to:	
L1	Demonstrate a critical understanding of how social problems/issues are defined and addressed in contemporary society.
L2	Demonstrate a critical awareness of conflict and contestation between policymakers and social movements/groups over the definition and resolution of social problems.
L3	Communicate an understanding of the challenges and possibilities of interdisciplinary research and its application to contemporary social issues.
L4	Subject policymaking to critical scrutiny and evaluation, ability to become a critical user of research evidence.
L5	Develop and apply on a modest scale the techniques taught in the research methods module of the programme to a contemporary social issue.

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 Level **11** Students will develop critical knowledge and understanding of key theories and concepts in analysing and discussing social sciences
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level **11** Students will apply knowledge and understanding of contemporary social issues in class based discussions, online forums, and in assessment practice

Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level **11** Students will develop a range of academic and professional skills including those relevant to critical reflection on assessing evidence	
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level **11** Students will engage with a range of modes of communication, oral, literary, and in online forums in the VLE Aula	
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level **11** Students will have opportunities to work in groups and will work autonomously to discuss and debate contemporary social issues	
Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code:	**Module Title:**
	Other:	
Co-requisites	**Module Code:**	**Module Title:**

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

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** (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	24
Practice Based Learning	12
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	6
Asynchronous Class Activity	6
Independent Study	152

	Hours Total 200

**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes * Becker, Saul. (2004). *Understanding research for social policy and practice: themes, methods and approaches* (Alan. Bryman, Ed.). Policy. *Cree, V., Clapton, G., & Smith, M. (Eds.). (2015). *Revisiting moral panics [electronic book]* . Policy Press. May, M., Page, R. M., & Brunsdon, Edward. (Eds.). (2001). *Understanding social problems: issues in social policy* . Blackwell. *Isaacs, Stuart. (2015). *Social problems in the UK: an introduction.* Routledge. (Available online in UWS library)
(**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.

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.]()
(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
Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)	Yes ☐No ☒

School Assessment Board	PG Social Sciences
Moderator	C Clark
External Examiner	S Kippin
Accreditation Details	NA
Changes/Version Number	1

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Learning and teaching in this module includes engagement with the University's Learning Experience Platform, Aula. Learning resources are embedded within Aula. Students will demonstrate that they have met the learning outcomes for the module by submitting a practice component of assessment (recording of a one-to-one career guidance/development interview) and a written component of assessment. Students will receive clear guidance relating to the submission of assessment.
Component 1 Project poster assessment (30% weighting)
Component 2 Written Project assessment (70% weighting)
(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.)

Assessment Outcome Grids (See Guidance Note)

Component 1							
Assessme nt Type (Footnote B.)	**Learning Outcome (1)**	**Learning Outcome (2)**	**Learning Outcome (3)**	**Learning Outcome (4)**	**Learning Outcome (5)**	**Weighting (%) of Assessment Element**	**Timetable d Contact Hours**
	X	X	X	X		30%	18

Component 2							
Assessme nt Type (Footnote B.)	**Learning Outcome (1)**	**Learning Outcome (2)**	**Learning Outcome (3)**	**Learning Outcome (4)**	**Learning Outcome (5)**	**Weighting (%) of Assessment Element**	**Timetable d Contact Hours**
	X	X	X	XX		70%	18

Combined Total for All Components	**100%**	**36 hours**

Change Control:

What	When	Who
Further guidance on aggregate regulation and application when completing template	16/01/2020	H McLean
Updated contact hours	14/09/21	H McLean
Updated Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure	19/10/2023	C Winter
Updated UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code	19/10/2023	C Winter
Guidance Note 23-24 provided	12/12/23	D Taylor
General housekeeping to text across sections. .	12/12/23	D Taylor

Version Number: MD Template 1 (2023-24)