

## University of the West of Scotland

## Module Descriptor

Session: 202425

<b>Title of Module: Social Work Law (PG)</b>			
<b>Code: SWPG11001</b>	<b>SCQF Level: 11 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)</b>	<b>Credit Points: 20</b>	<b>ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)</b>
<b>School:</b>	School of Education and Social Sciences		
<b>Module Co-ordinator:</b>	D Sidhva		
<b>Summary of Module</b>			
<p>This module contributes to helping students prepare for assessed practice by introducing them to key aspects of law and policy in Scotland, which underpin social work practice.</p> <p>The module covers law sources and policy contexts relevant to social work in Scotland, focusing on laws affecting children, families, adults in need, the criminally involved, and asylum seekers. It addresses equality, human rights, and the European Convention of Human Rights' impact.</p> <p>Students will learn about social workers' legal responsibilities, using law to manage risk, combat discrimination, and foster empowerment.</p> <p>Practical applications will illustrate the ethical challenges of legal application in social work, covering professional values and dilemmas in adult care, child and family services, criminal justice, and immigration.</p>			

<b>Module Delivery Method</b>					
<b>Face-To-Face</b>	<b>Blended</b>	<b>Fully Online</b>	<b>HybridC</b>	<b>Hybrid0</b>	<b>Work-Based Learning</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
<b>See Guidance Note for details.</b>					

Campus(es) for Module Delivery						
The module will <b>normally</b> 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:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Add name

Term(s) for Module Delivery					
(Provided viable student numbers permit).					
Term 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 critical knowledge and understanding of aspects of law relevant to, and underpinning, social work practice
L2	Demonstrate critical knowledge and understanding of social work law in evaluating complex professional practice problems, issues and ethical dilemmas
L3	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding at a critical level, of the role of law in empowering service users, minimising risk to service users and challenging discrimination
L4	Demonstrate the ability to accurately quote and cite policy and legislation, utilising appropriate formats, to uphold professional standards in social work practice.

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 An understanding of critical practice in social work. An understanding of critical thinking. A critical understanding of a range of theories and techniques of practice and policy analysis.

	<p>A critical understanding of the process of decision making.</p> <p>A critical understanding of person-centred practice.</p> <p>A critical understanding of processes of organisational change.</p> <p>A critical understanding of inter-professional practice.</p> <p>A critical understanding of evidence-based practice.</p> <p>A critical understanding of social work as a political activity.</p>
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	<p>SCQF Level <b>11</b></p> <p>The application of critical thinking in their own practice.</p> <p>The application of theory, research and practice wisdom to critical practice.</p> <p>The ability to critically apply both general and specialist knowledge to social work practice.</p> <p>The ability to retrieve, interpret, critically analyse and manipulate primary and secondary information from a variety of sources including electronic sources.</p> <p>The ability to critically analyse current issues in social policy and social work practice and to identify the political ideologies, interests and forces underpinning them.</p>
Generic Cognitive skills	<p>SCQF Level <b>11</b></p> <p>The ability to demonstrate critical thinking through logical discussion and reasoned argument.</p> <p>The ability to conduct analysis, evaluation and synthesis of complex information from a range of sources and understand the implications of these for critical practice.</p>
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	<p>SCQF Level <b>11</b></p> <p>Communicate critically, systematically and effectively.</p> <p>Critically Interpret complex primary material including statistical data.</p> <p>Making effective use of information retrieval systems and making use of information technology to present documents in an appropriate form.</p> <p>Demonstrate the ability to communicate, using appropriate methods, to a range of audiences with different levels of knowledge/expertise.</p>
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	<p>SCQF Level <b>11</b></p> <p>Taking responsibility for own critical learning and academic and professional development as ethical social work practitioners as required by the S.S.S.C. Codes of Practice for Social Services Workers.</p> <p>Systematically identify and address their own learning needs both in current and in new areas, making use of research in source materials as appropriate.</p>

	<p>Demonstrate the ability to practice in ways which draw on critical reflection on own and others' roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Take responsibility for own work and contribute to the collective learning activities of the group in ways which support and develop.</p>	
<b>Pre-requisites:</b>	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	<b>Module Code:</b>	<b>Module Title:</b>
	<b>Other:</b>	
<b>Co-requisites</b>	<b>Module Code:</b> SWPG11005	<b>Module Title:</b> Social Work Values, Ethics & Theory in Practice
	SWPG11006	Learning & Applying Lessons from Svc Failures

<b>Learning and Teaching</b>	
<b>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.</b>	
<b>Learning Activities</b> During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	<b>Student Learning Hours</b> (Normally totalling 200 hours): (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture/Core Content Delivery	36
Independent Study	164
	200 Hours Total
<b>**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)</b>	
<p>The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:</p> <p>Maclean, S., and Shiner, M. (2018) Social Care and the Law in Scotland 11<sup>th</sup> edition</p> <p>Guthrie, T. (2018) Social Work Law in Scotland. Edition 4, Bloomsbury Professional</p> <p>Davis, G. and Gordon, J. (2021) Social Work and the Law in Scotland, Open University Press</p>	
(**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:

Engaging with online pre and post class activities. Attending taught classes on and off-campus.

**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**

<b>Divisional Programme Board</b>	Psychology and Social Work
<b>Assessment Results (Pass/Fail)</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>School Assessment Board</b>	Ug/Pg Social Work & CDAS
<b>Moderator</b>	tab
<b>External Examiner</b>	S Lucas
<b>Accreditation Details</b>	Scottish Social Services Council
<b>Changes/Version Number</b>	1

**Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)**

The assessment provides students with cases from the following three areas of social work practice: criminal justice, children and families, and adult care from which they must select one.

The primary aim of this assessment is to evaluate the students' knowledge and engagement with the landscape of legislation, policies, and relevant issues within social work practice. Importance is placed on fostering a nuanced understanding through critical analysis, linking theoretical frameworks and ethical considerations within this case study assessment.

Assessment 1: Written Case study worth 100% of the module mark

(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						
Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Written Case study	25%	25%	25%	25%	100%	36 hours
<b>Total</b>					<b>100%</b>	<b>36 hours</b>

### 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)