Module Descriptor

Title	Social Work Law (PG)		
Session	2025/26	Status	
Code	SWPG11001	SCQF Level	11
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	D Sidhva		

Summary of Module

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.

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.

Students will learn about social workers' legal responsibilities, using law to manage risk, combat discrimination, and foster empowerment.

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.

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)	

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[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 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.
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** 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. A critical understanding of the process of decision making. A critical understanding of person-centred practice. A critical understanding of processes of organisational change. A critical understanding of inter-professional practice. A critical understanding of evidence-based practice. A critical understanding of social work as a political activity.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** The application of critical thinking in their own practice. The application of theory, research and practice wisdom to critical practice. The ability to critically apply both general and specialist knowledge to social work practice. The application of a range of research methods in order to undertake a substantial research project. Planning and executing a significant project of research, investigation or development. The application of a range of standard and specialized research or equivalent instruments and techniques of enquiry.

	The ability to retrieve, interpret, critically analyse and manipulate primary and secondary information from a variety of sources including electronic sources. 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.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** The ability to demonstrate critical thinking through logical discussion and reasoned argument. 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.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Communicate critically, systematically and effectively verbally and in writing. Critically Interpret complex primary material including statistical data. Making effective use of information retrieval systems and making use of information technology to present documents in an appropriate form. 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** 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. Systematically identify and address their own learning needs both in current and in new areas, making use of research in source materials as appropriate. Demonstrate the ability to practice in ways which draw on critical reflection on own and others' roles and responsibilities. Take responsibility for own work and contribute to the collective learning activities of the group in ways which support and develop.

Prerequisites	Module Code	Module Title
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code** SWPG11005	**Module Title** Social Work Values, Ethics & Theory in Practice

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	36
Independent Study	164
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:
Maclean, S., and Shiner, M. (2018) Social Care and the Law in Scotland 11th edition Guthrie, T. (2018) Social Work Law in Scotland. Edition 4, Bloomsbury Professional Davis, G. and Gordon, J. (2021) Social Work and the Law in Scotland, Open University Press
(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. This module is compliant with all protected characteristics as defined in equalities legislation.
(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	Psychology Social Work
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	Ug/Pg Social Work & CDAS
Moderator	TBC
External Examiner	S Lucas
Accreditation Details	Scottish Social Services Council
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ Yes ☒ No
Changes / Version Number	1

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
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 2
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
Case Study	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	100	36

Component 2							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	36 hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
new template, no changes	Mar 25	D Sidhva