Module Descriptor

Title	Foundations of Social Work Practice (GA)		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	GASW07001	**SCQF Level**	7
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Education and Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	TBC		

Summary of Module

Learners will explore the foundations of contemporary social work with reference to professional values and ethics. Theories and approaches for informing practice with service users are introduced. Critical reflection, professional identity and ethical professional practice are developed throughout the module.

- Exploring the nature of contemporary social work;
- Developing knowledge of theories and approaches to engage service users;
- Applying anti-oppressive professional values.

The module will be delivered in a hybrid mode with a combination of synchronous / live online learning opportunities including learning materials, resources and learning activities through a virtual learning environment. Students will be expected to draw from their current practice and use examples within all learning activities, including summative assessment.

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 knowledge and understanding of social work values and ethics for social work practice.
L2	Evidence an understanding of the application of knowledge, values and ethics in professional decision-making.
L3	Demonstrate a critical knowledge and understanding of a range of theories and approaches to inform practice with service users.
L4	Recognise and embody elements of professional identity in readiness for social work practice.
L5	Produce written work to a professional stand that conforms to academic conventions.

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 7** Students will develop knowledge and understanding of social work values, ethics and theory relevant to professional social work practice.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 7** Students will develop the ability to apply their knowledge to a range of professional practice contexts.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 7** Students will develop a range of critical skills relevant to professional social work practice and to higher-level academic study.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 7** Students will develop a range of ICT skills through engagement in this module. These will include developing competence in the use of a variety of online platforms used in professional social work practice.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 7** Students will take responsibility for significant elements of their learning as well as working in groups and teams.

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.

The module will be delivered in a hybrid mode with a combination of synchronous / live online learning opportunities including learning materials, resources and learning activities through a virtual learning environment. Students will be expected to draw from their current practice and use examples within all learning activities, including summative assessment.

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
Work-based Learning	100
Independent Study	64
n/a	
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources

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

Healy, K. (2014) Social work theories in context: Creating frameworks for practice (2nd Edition). London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Banks, S. (2021) Ethics and Values in Social Work 5th Edition. Globe press

Payne, M. (2021) Modern Social Work Theory 5th Edition 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:

This module is subject to SSSC requirements regarding student attendance for scheduled teaching. Students are required to attend 80% of all timetabled activity to meet programme specific SSSC requirements.

Engaging in all learning tasks as directed, being prepared for all scheduled learning, including module reading, engaging in all module learning materials, submitting academic assessment within the specified deadlines.

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. In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustments made for different needs where appropriate. Module materials comply with University guidance on inclusive learning and teaching, and specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessments will be made in accordance with UWS policy and regulations. Where modules require practical and/or laboratory based learning or assessment required to meet accrediting body requirements the University will make reasonable adjustments as necessary.
(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 and PG Social Work
Moderator	TBC
External Examiner	TBC
Accreditation Details	SSSC
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Written Assessment - 100%
Assessment 2
Critical Reflection - Pass/Fail
Assessment 3
NA
(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	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	100	36

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Critical Reflection - Pass/Fail	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒		

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

Change Control

What	When	Who
Adapted for GA delivery	13-07-25	Scott Grant
Critical reflection, new module code, 100 hours of work-based learning added	03-03-26	Scott Grant