University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 202425

Title of Module: Introduction to Social Research			
Code: SOCY07020	**SCQF Level: 7 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)**	**Credit Points: 20**	**ECTS: 10 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**
School:	School of Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator:	N Hay		

Summary of Module
This module introduces students to social research, placing a central focus on the development of knowledge and understanding of the research process and the development of core research skills and introductory knowledge of research philosophies, methodologies and methods. In Term 1, students will be guided through the principles of conducting social research. Students will engage in a process of structured inquiry-based learning, designed to introduce and actively engage them in research activity. In Term 2, through a process of desk-based research, students will scope and explore a research problem, generate research questions, identify, gather, assess and evaluate research data and academic sources and communicate their findings in an appropriate output. The early immersion in the practice of research and inquiry will support the development of key research literacies and capabilities that students require to develop as undergraduates and lifelong learners. Key elements of the module are: • Introduction to key aspects of social research • Development of research literacies and capabilities through process of inquiry-based learning • Working with peers in group research activity

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 understanding of the foundational elements of the research process
L2	Demonstrate a broad appreciation of the characteristics of research practice within and between different social science disciplines
L3	Apply foundational research principles of the research process
L4	Deploy critical skills to select, evaluate, distil and synthesise academic sources
L5	Communication of complex ideas/information in appropriate academic format

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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 **7** Demonstration of knowledge and understanding of the research process. Demonstration of an understanding of academic sources.

Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level **7** Application of knowledge and understanding of the research process through a literature review. Application of knowledge and understanding of information and data
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level **7** Presentation and evaluation of information and data that addresses a research question
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level **7** Communication of complex ideas/information in appropriate electronic forms. Application of technology to facilitate information and data retrieval.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level Choose an item. Work with peers to achieve a group goal

Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	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.	
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	12
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	22

Asynchronous Class Activity	10
Independent Study	156
	200 Hours Total

**Indicative Resources: (eg. Core text, journals, internet access)
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Bryman, A. (2016) Social research methods. 5th edition. Oxford: Oxford university press Bickman, L. and Rog, D. J. (2009) The SAGE handbook of applied social research methods. 2nd edition. London: Sage. Online Guthrie, G. (2010) Basic research methods: An entry to social science research. London: SAGE Publications. Online Henn, M., Weinstein, M. and Foard, N. (2009) A critical introduction to social research. Los Angeles: SAGE Robson, C. and McCartan, K. (2016) Real world research. 4th edn. Hoboken: Wiley. Vanderstoep, S.W. and Johnson, D.D. (2008) Research methods for everyday life: Blending qualitative and quantitative approaches. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. Online Walliman, N. (2016) Social research methods: the essentials, Los Angeles: 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: Where a module has Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirements these will be listed here: All fulltime students (part-time and distant learning students should check with their programme leader for any queries) 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/rights-and-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.

Please ensure any specific requirements are detailed in this section. Module Co-ordinators should consider the accessibility of their module for groups with protected characteristics..

Our partners are fully committed to the principles and practice of inclusiveness and our modules are designed to be accessible to all. Where this module is delivered overseas, local equivalent support for students and appropriate legislation applies.

(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	UG Social Sciences
Moderator	L Tellez Contreras
External Examiner	E Machett
Accreditation Details	e.g. ACCA Click or tap here to enter text.
Changes/Version Number	

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1 – Critical Reflection on a Research Design – 500 words (40% of overall mark)

Assessment 2 – Group literature review of 2500 words (60%) of overall 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)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Review/Article Critique/ Paper	x	x	x			40	

Component 2

Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Portfolio of Written work			x	x	x	60	

Component 3

Assessment Type (Footnote B.)	Learning Outcome (1)	Learning Outcome (2)	Learning Outcome (3)	Learning Outcome (4)	Learning Outcome (5)	Weighting (%) of Assessment Element	Timetabled Contact Hours
Combined Total for All Components						**100%**	**XX 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)