Module Descriptor

Title	Social Policy for Social Work		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Full Time
Code	**SWRK07008**	**SCQF Level**	SCQF 7
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	S Gittins		

Summary of Module

This module is designed to provide students with a critical understanding of social policy context for contemporary social work practice in Scotland. It develops understanding of 'the social', social welfare, social inequality, social injustice and social need, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Delivery Goals. The balance of responsibilities for wellbeing between individuals, family, voluntary organisations, the market and state in Scotland, is investigated.

Social challenges of homelessness, substance use, child poverty, domestic abuse, race inequality and youth justice are examined. Impact and effectiveness of policy initiatives are investigated, to help develop academic and practice analytical skills.

The National Social Work Agency is explored to further enhance insight for contextual social work practice awareness.

Module Delivery Method	**On-Campus[1]**	**Hybrid[2]**	**Online[3]**	**Work -Based Learning[4]**
	X☒	☐	☐	☐

Campuses for Module Delivery			
	☐ ☒ Dumfries	☐ ☒ Paisley	☐

[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	X☒	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 an understanding of contextual social policy, relevant to social work practice in Scotland.
L2	Apply social policy knowledge to demonstrate its criticality in contemporary social work practice.
L3	Identify and explore the balance of responsibilities for well-being between individuals, family, voluntary organisations, the market and state in Scotland.
L4	Engage with evidence-based research to be able to analyse social policy impact effectively.

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** Demonstrate understanding of contemporary social policy and how it relates to social work practice in Scotland.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 7** Apply relevant knowledge and understanding of social challenges with supporting evidence, to investigate social policy responses.
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 7** Present and evaluate evidence and arguments pertaining to social policy impact and effectiveness and be able to relate this to contemporary social work practice in Scotland.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 7** Communicate arguments clearly and coherently, using appropriate academic conventions, referencing, and digital tools to support written and oral work.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 7** Work both independently and collaboratively to research, reflect and to evaluate social challenges and social policy, demonstrating initiative, critical awareness, and an ability to relate debates to contemporary social work practice.

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.	
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)
Workshop / lecturing	36
Independent Study	164
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200 hours.

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Cunningham, J. *et al*. (2026) *Social Policy and Social Work: An introduction*. Gohrisch, J. and Stedman, G. (2023) *Affective Polarisation: Social Inequality in the UK After Austerity, Brexit and Covid-19*. Green, L. and Clark, K. (2016) *Social Policy for Social Work: Placing social work in its wider context*. Mooney, G. and Scott, G. (2012) *Social Justice and Social Policy in Scotland*. Mullen, L. (2025) *Applying Social Policy in Social Work Practice*.
(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. - SSSC require a minimum attendance threshold of 80% attendance for scheduled teaching.

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 fully compliant with this 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 Work**
Overall Assessment Results	**Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	**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	**Social Work, ESS**
Moderator	**D Sidhva**
External Examiner	**J Davey**
Accreditation Details	**SSSC.**
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	**No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Written assessment (100%)
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**
Written assessment	Error! Bookmark not defined.	**X**☒	**X**☒	**X**☒	☐	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%	4 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**