Module Descriptor

Title	Critical and Radical Social Work Practice		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	SWRK08008	**SCQF Level**	SCQF 8
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Education & Social Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	G Graham		

Summary of Module

This module has been designed in accordance with the principles of inquiry-based learning. Students will embark upon a journey of discovery in which they will explore critical and radical approaches in social work theory and practice.
Exploring key critical themes in contemporary social work including the impact of the climate crisis and social justice.
It will help prepare students to work in an increasingly complex environment considering how competing imperatives of resource management and the assessment and management of need and risk must be balanced in a socially just manner.
It will equip students to engage critically and constructively with key debates concerning how social work practice should evolve to meet the requirements of integrated service delivery and personalised services within a framework of social justice.
It will enable students to develop critical, anti-oppressive and anti-colonial perspectives in their responses to vulnerable groups and social problems.

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

Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr	☐ Lanarkshire	☐ Online / Distance Learning

[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

	☒ Dumfries		☐ London ☒ Paisley		☐ Other (specify)	
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 a detailed knowledge and critical understanding of the development and application of critical and radical approaches to social work practice.
L2	Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and critical understanding of the climate emergency and the impact on vulnerable groups and communities.
L3	Demonstrate an understanding of the role of ideological positions in approaching issues of social justice, including the need for an anti-colonial perspective.
L4	Demonstrate a critical understanding of social work as a political activity, concerned with issues of power, and the promotion of social justice in a global context.
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 8 An understanding of the scope of critical practice in social work
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 8 The ability to apply both general and specialist knowledge to social work practice. 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 8 Students will develop a range of critical skills (including inquiry/research skills) relevant to professional social work practice and to higher-level academic study
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 8 Students will develop a range of ICT skills as a result of 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 8 Students will take responsibility for significant elements of their own 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.

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
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: Dominelli, L (2012) Green social work: from environmental crises to environmental justice, Cambridge: Polity Fenton, J. (2019) Social Work for lazy radicals: relationship building, critical thinking and courage in practice, London: Red Globe Press Ferguson, I. (2013) Critical and Radical Debate in Social Work. Bristol: Policy 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 attending and participating in all timetabled programme activities including on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, placement, work-based elements, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time. **For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following: 80% attendance.** In line with the Academic Engagement and Attendance Procedure, Students are defined as academically engaged if they are regularly engaged with: timetabled sessions (whether online or in-person); reviewing course-related learning resources

including those accessed via the LEP/VLE and if they complete assessments and submit these on time.

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

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	Psychology & Social Work
Moderator	P Gow
External Examiner	J Davey
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1 Written assignment 100% of module grade
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
	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	100	

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%	hours

Change Control

What	When	Who