University of the West of Scotland

Module Descriptor

Session: 202324

Title of Module: Social Sciences Dissertation			
Code: SOCY10027	SCQF Level: 10 (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	Credit Points: 40	ECTS: 20 (European Credit Transfer Scheme)
School:	School of Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator:	A van der Zwet		

Summary of Module
The Social Sciences Dissertation is a significant part – 40 credits - of the Honours year and runs across Term 1 and 2. The module requires students to research and write a dissertation linked to the Social Sciences programme. Support is two-fold. First, whole class sessions which consist of two general support and a number of specific support sessions which cover methods and research design topics.   Second, students will benefit from one-to-one support sessions with an allocated dissertation supervisor. The support enables students to undertake an independent piece of research, building on the skills they have developed over the previous three years particularly through the L9 "Designing Your Dissertation Project" module and feedback on its final assessment. The Social Sciences Dissertation module will develop important analytical and project management skills which students can transfer beyond university and into the workplace.

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	Critically identify, define, and conceptualise an appropriate topic for research within the social sciences.
L2	Undertake a systematic review and analysis of relevant and appropriate primary and secondary sources.
L3	Execute a defined research project using appropriate research methodologies and techniques of enquiry.
L4	Critically evaluate, analyse, and present research findings
L5	Communicate complex theories, ideas, concepts, and findings in appropriate audio/visual or written form

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 **10** The demonstration of a broad and integrated knowledge of principal areas, features and boundaries that define the social sciences. The demonstration of a critical understanding of central theories, principles, ideas, arguments, and debates within the social sciences. The demonstration of a critical knowledge and understanding of the relationship between the theory and the practice of research within the social sciences.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF Level **10** The execution of a defined research project in an area related to the social science disciplines. The application of appropriate social science methodologies and methods to the practice of research. The ability to gather, retrieve, synthesize and apply information from appropriate primary and/or secondary sources.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF Level **10** The critical evaluation and analysis of complex and contested ideas and concepts within the social sciences.

	The critical review of knowledge, understanding skills and practice within social science research. Judging, evaluating, and synthesizing contested concepts and data in the production of cogent argument.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF Level **10** The communication and interpretation of quantitative and/or qualitative data in the production of a written thesis. The development in key skills relating to the use and application of research software. The development of digital literacy in the use of online research engines and tools.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with others	SCQF Level **10** The ability to undertake independent, self-directed study to achieve negotiated goals. To work effectively and reflectively with a supervisor. To consider complex ethical issues with a framework of defined codes of practice, seeking supervisory guidance where appropriate.

Pre-requisites:	Before undertaking this module the student should have undertaken the following:	
	Module Code: SOCY09056	**Module Title:** Designing your Dissertation Project (SCQF Level 9)
	Other:	
Co-requisites	**Module Code:**	**Module Title:**

*Indicates that module descriptor is not published.

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 follows a blended delivery – on campus and online sessions.** **'Students will be provided with a minimum of 6 hours of supervision from their dissertation supervisor'.** **There will be 4 core hours of teaching delivery that are mandatory.** **Additional drop in and support sessions of a maximum 26 hours. These sessions are option.** **An additional 10 hours of asynchronous class activities are available These are optional.**

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	4
Tutorial/Synchronous Support Activity	6
Asynchronous Class Activity	10
Laboratory/Practical Demonstration/Workshop	26
Independent Study	354
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
Choose an item.	
	Hours Total 400

**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. (2012) Social Research Methods. 4th edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cottrell, S (2014) Dissertations and Project Reports London: Palgrave

Rudestam, K.J. and Newton, R.R (2015) Surviving your dissertation: A comprehensive guide to content and process. 4th edn. London: Sage

Please ensure the list is kept short and current. Essential resources should be included, broader resources should be kept for module handbooks / Aula VLE.

Resources should be listed in Right Harvard referencing style or agreed professional body deviation and in alphabetical order.

(**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:

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..

(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	G Rice
External Examiner	R Ryder
Accreditation Details	e.g. ACCA Click or tap here to enter text.
Changes/Version Number	1

Assessment: (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

This section should make transparent what assessment categories form part of this module (stating what % contributes to the final mark).
Maximum of 3 main assessment categories can be identified (which may comprise smaller elements of assessment).
NB: The 30% aggregate regulation (Reg. 3.9) (40% for PG) for each main category must be taken into account. When using PSMD, if all assessments are recorded in the one box, only one assessment grid will show and the 30% (40%

at PG) aggregate regulation will not stand. For the aggregate regulation to stand, each component of assessment must be captured in a separate box. Please provide brief information about the overall approach to assessment that is taken within the module. In order to be flexible with assessment delivery, be brief, but do state assessment type (e.g. written assignment rather than "essay" / presentation, etc) and keep the detail for the module handbook. Click or tap here to enter text.

Assessment 1 – Literature Review Chapter (2000 words) (15%)

Assessment 2 – Dissertation (10 000 words) (85%)

Assessment 3 – Free Text

(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
	✓	✓				15	

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
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	85	

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)