

University of the
West of England

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Code: USPJGM-20-3

Title: Psychology and Social
Justice

Version: 1.2

Level: 3

UWE credit rating: 20

ECTS credit rating: 10

Module type: Standard

Owning Faculty: Health and Applied Sciences

Department: Department of Biological,
Biomedical and Analytical Sciences

Faculty Committee approval: Quality and Standards Committee

Date: March 2011

Approved for Delivery by: N/A

Valid from: September 2011

Discontinued from:

Pre-requisites:

USPJDD-20-2 Developmental and Social Psychology 2 or USPJLB-30-2 Social and Theoretical Psychology: Conceptual and Historical Issues 2 or USPJLW-20-2 Theoretical and Social Psychology or USPJMX-30-2 Psychology Applied

Co-requisites:

None

Entry Requirements:

N/A

Excluded Combinations:

None

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical and methodological foundations of a range of approaches within Critical Psychology.
- demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural and ideological influences and constraints on mainstream Psychological theory, method and practice.
- apply and evaluate critiques of mainstream Psychological theories, methods and practices.
- recognise and discuss key theoretical debates within Critical Psychology
- demonstrate an awareness of the broader context of critical theoretical work within the human sciences

Syllabus Outline:

Indicative curriculum:

Overview; Critical Psychology in context:

Critical historical perspectives on the development of mainstream psychology and the psy-complex. The development and theoretical foundations of approaches within critical psychology.

Core themes and debates: Individuality and Agency Self and Embodiment Relativism and Realism

Subjectivity and the Self:

Critique of traditional psychological conceptualisations of Self
Psychoanalytic and Post-structuralist perspectives

Critical and Political Theory:

Marxist approaches
Feminist critiques of Psychology
Social constructionism and Post-modernism
Structuralism and Post-structuralism

Critical research methods and practice: Deconstructing mainstream paradigms and methods Qualitative research debates
Discourse and textual analysis
Action research
Empowerment research
Epistemology, method and the role of knowledge in research

Deconstruction and critique of mainstream domains and perspectives. For example: Biological determinist, psychometrics and individual difference theories
Cognitivism
Political psychology Economic Psychology Psychopathology Social psychology
Developmental psychology
Applied Psychology

Teaching and Learning Methods: Guided study / Course reader Individual Learning contracts Interactive workshops
Student-led seminars

Reading Strategy:

All students will be encouraged to make full use of the print and electronic resources available to them through membership of the University. These include a range of electronic journals and a wide variety of resources available through web sites and information gateways. The University Library's web pages provide access to subject relevant resources and services, and to the library catalogue. Many resources can be accessed remotely. Students will be presented with opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify such resources effectively.

Any **essential reading** will be indicated clearly, along with the method for accessing it, e.g. students may be expected to purchase a set text, be given or sold a print study pack or be referred to texts that are available electronically, etc. This guidance will be available either in the module handbook, via the module information on Blackboard or through any other vehicle deemed appropriate by the module/programme leaders.

If **further reading** is expected, this will be indicated clearly. If specific texts are listed, a clear indication will be given regarding how to access them and, if appropriate, students will be given guidance on how to identify relevant sources for themselves, e.g. through use of bibliographical databases.

Indicative Reading List:

Danziger, K. (1997). Naming the Mind: How Psychology Found its Language. London: Sage. Fox, D. & Prilleltensky, I. (eds) (1997). Critical Psychology: An Introduction. London: Sage. Ibanez, T. & Iniguez, L. (eds) (1997). Critical Social Psychology. London: Sage.
Parker, I. (ed) (1998). Social Constructionism, Discourse and Realism. London: Sage. Parker, I. & Spears, R. (eds) (1996). Psychology and Society: Radical Theory and Practice. Richards, G. (2002). Putting Psychology In Its Place: a Critical Historical Overview. Hove:

Psychology Press.

Rose, N. (1985). The Psychological Complex: Psychology, Politics and Society in England 1869-1939. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.

Smith, J., Harre, R. & Van Langenhove, L. (eds) (1995). Rethinking Methods in Psychology. London: Sage.

Sloan, T. (1996). Damaged Life: The Crisis of the Modern Psyche. London: Routledge.

Stainton Rogers, R., Stenner, P., Gleeson, K. & Stainton Rogers, W. (1995). Social Psychology: A Critical Agenda. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Journals:

Theory and Psychology
Journal of Critical Psychology, Counselling and psychotherapy
Discourse and Society
Feminism and psychology

Assessment:

Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only) A: 25% B: 75% FIRST ATTEMPT

First Assessment Opportunity

Component A (*controlled*)

Description of each element
Timed Assignment (1 hour)

Element Wt (Ratio)
(*within Component*) EX1
1

Component B

Description of each element
Essay (3000 words). Title to be individually negotiated

Element Wt (Ratio)
(*within Component*) ES1
1

Second Assessment Opportunity (Resit) further attendance at taught classes is not required

Component A (*controlled*)

Description of each element
Timed Assignment (1 hour)

Element Wt (Ratio)
(*within Component*) EX1
1

Component B

Description of each element
Essay (3000 words). Title to be individually negotiated

Element Wt (Ratio)
(*within Component*) ES1
1

EXCEPTIONAL SECOND ATTEMPT Attendance at taught classes is required.

Confirmed.....**Date**

(AssociateDean/ProgrammeDirector)

