



Module Specification

Science and Society

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Science and Society

Module code: USSJM4-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Applied Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Applied Sciences

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: This module explores the relationship between science and society. The boundaries between science and society will be explored using a series of case studies (for example, GM, MMR, prenatal genetic testing etc.) examining

controversial areas of science and technology. Each case study will be used as a perspective on a different type of theoretical approach, including debates around risk, citizenship, gender and knowledge.

The concept of 'publics' will be investigated. This will be viewed from several angles including a discussion of the shift from 'public understanding' to 'public engagement' where the historical construction of science communication will be discussed.

Students will also explore the role of informal learning, characteristics of informal learning and its contribution to science communication. This will form a backdrop for later sessions on mass and direct communication methods, and provide students with an opportunity to think reflexively from the outset of the course.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will be taught in block teaching sessions. During the intensive teaching sessions, material will be delivered through a variety of lecture, seminar and workshop sessions. Case studies will be used to examine controversial science. Students will be expected to take an active role in developing and running workshop and seminar sessions. The intensive teaching periods will be supplemented by guided and independent reading to provide suitable background on the subject and examine theoretical concepts in detail.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Analyse the historical development and social contexts of public attitudes to science and technology

MO2 Analyse the problematic relationship between science and society

MO3 Explore the boundaries between the disciplines that contribute to the communication of science

MO4 Critically assess the potential of a variety of science communication activities to contribute to informal learning about science

MO5 Develop a reflexive approach to the practice of science communication

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussjm4-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ussjm4-30-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: There are two assignments for 'Science and Society':

Assessment 1 is a Written Assignment, which has two parts. In the first students are asked to produce a written assignment based on a "controversy". The controversy should involve science, technology, medicine or the environment where there are two (or more) positions that have been argued by competing experts, groups or stakeholders. In the second part of the assessment students compile a reflective learning journal.

Assessment 2 is a Timed Essay (completed within 48hrs) in which you will discuss a subject of relevance to the module.

Detailed instructions and marking criteria for the two assignments are provided in the Assessment Briefs. Assessment support sessions will be scheduled during the taught course.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Written assignment and reflective log (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Timed essay to be completed at home by students over 48 hours.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Written assignment and reflective log (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Timed essay to be completed at home by students over 48 hours.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Science Communication [Frenchay] MSc 2023-24

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