



Module Specification

Foundations in Social Theory

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Foundations in Social Theory

Module code: UZSNLF-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Alexander College, Frenchay Campus

Field: Sociology and Criminology

Module type: Standard

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: The Enlightenment and the development of modern social science.

Modernity and the development of modern social science.

The development of classical sociology:

The Sociology of Karl Marx

The Sociology of Emile Durkheim

The Sociology of Max Weber

Key paradigms in modern social theory. This could include contributions such as:

Structural Functionalism including the work of Talcott Parsons

Interactionism including the work of Irving Goffman.

Critiques of modern social theory. This could include contributions such as:

Neo-Marxism

Critical Theory

Feminism

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: This module has been developed to facilitate and support the acquisition of subject knowledge, sociological understanding and a range of intellectual and practical skills. Teaching and learning methods will encourage both individual and group learning and supports the development of a range of practical and transferable skills. Lectures focus on the dissemination of disciplinary knowledge and workshops provide students with opportunities to share knowledge and to enhance their understanding of sociological concepts, theoretical traditions and substantive areas of social scientific enquiry. There is an expectation that in addition to the scheduled contact hours, students will undertake self-directed, independent, study. Teaching and learning are supported by Blackboard which provides on-line and remote access to teaching and learning resources and a platform for student assessment and feedback.

Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision,

demonstration, practical classes and workshops; fieldwork; external visits; work based learning; supervised time in studio/workshop.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices you make.

There are three contact hours per week, a weekly lecture and a two hour workshop.

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

MO1 Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts and theoretical approaches in the classical and modern sociological traditions On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO2 Demonstrate the capacity to identify the key substantive aspects of modernity addressed by the key sociological thinkers On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO3 Demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between sociological argument and evidence On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO4 Demonstrate the ability to articulate the distinctive character of sociology in relation to other forms of understanding such as its relationship to other disciplines and lay explanations On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO5 Demonstrate the capacity to identify the limitations and shortcomings of classical and modern social theory

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 234 hours

Face-to-face learning = 66 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/uzsnlf-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsnlf-30-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The assessment strategy for this module offers opportunities for learning from both summative and formative assessments. Enquiry Based Learning (EBL) is the pedagogic approach used on this module. The workshop format underpinning EBL provides safe spaces for individual and group learning via student-led activities. In this context, formative elements include both lecturer and peer evaluation of individual research practices, inter-group communications and intra-group processes. EBL offers opportunities to integrate the features of formative assessment holistically, by creating learning environments which promote social learning, dialogue and varied embedded feedback opportunities.

Both assessments are written coursework. The first component is a 1500 word essay. This assessment will test the ability of students to understand and articulate sociological concepts and theories and apply these concepts and theories to substantive areas of social scientific enquiry. The second component is comprised of three 500 word concept reviews (1500 word total), that will require students to evidence ability to describe understand and assess key concepts from the whole module. Formative assessment and feedback will occur in-class and include the development of skills in answering questions succinctly and with clarity and ability to evidence increasing confidence in applying knowledge and understanding in classroom settings.

Assessment components:

Written Assignment - Component A (First Sit)

Description: Essay (1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

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

Written Assignment - Component B (First Sit)

Description: Concept reviews (three x 500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

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

Written Assignment - Component A (Resit)

Description: Essay (1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Written Assignment - Component B (Resit)

Description: Concept reviews (three x 500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: