



Module Specification

Social Issues and Social Problems

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Social Issues and Social Problems

Module code: UZSSLG-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 definition and nature of social issues and social problems

Understanding the historical nature and contemporary form of Social Issues and Social Problems (indicative):

Poverty and Inequality

Health and Illness

Employment/Unemployment/Low Pay

Crime and Deviance

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Aging and the Life Course

Transport/Mobility

Disability

Housing/Homelessness

Racism

Media and Culture

Social Problems and Public Policy: Government Intervention and Policy Making in historical and comparative perspective.

The Practice and Ideology of Social Welfare: Historical and Comparative Perspectives

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning includes one hour lectures and two-hour workshop. The module is based on a problem/enquiry based learning approach which engages students with social problems and issues while fostering both independent study and team work. Workshops therefore aim to help students learn and practice the range of skills indicated in above sections, while lectures offer orientation and knowledge acquisition. Students will be expected to conduct independent study related to the presentations. Independent study is required in relation to set reading for lectures and workshops, as well as assessed work.

Lectures are essential for providing an overview of syllabus topics;

Workshops are designed to be central to learning, teaching and assessment in this module through facilitating groups work and, group presentations and tutorial time to further encourage and engagement with broader lecture themes;

Directed Tasks will include those based on reading in preparation for seminars;

E-learning resources as appropriate, including the use of UWEonline.

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 will be 3 formal contact hours per week, in addition to an expectation that individual students spend time in independent reading/research. There will be one lecture, one two-hour workshop per week (72 contact hours in total over two semesters).

Module Learning outcomes:

MO1 Understand the nature of social problems and the ways in which sociology as a discipline can articulate the connections between private troubles and public issues

MO2 Demonstrate a familiarity with and an understanding of a range of substantive social problems and the ways in which sociology has attempted to understand and analyse these problems

MO3 Have gained an understanding of the governmental policy-making process and the factors that impinge on it

MO4 Understand some of the key concepts used in social policy such as need, equity, inequality, poverty, exclusion, identity, difference and diversity

MO5 Understand key concepts in social policy and their relationship with the historical development of the welfare state and analyse the changing shape and priorities of social policy, and of different welfare states and policy priorities of other countries

MO6 Demonstrate how and why some social issues are incorporated onto the public agenda and/or government agenda and to differentiate between ideological perspectives which influence definitions of a social problem and policy responses to it

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/uzsslq-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsslq-30-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: In semester one, students will prepare an essay on a social problem or issue that will demonstrate an attempt to connect personal experience and public issues and contrast 'common sense' and sociological explanations of social issues and social problems. In semester two students will complete a campaign brief which enable them to engage with the relationship between social problems, government policy and competing and/or comparative understandings of social welfare. There is no exam for this Module.

Assessment components:

Written Assignment - Component A (First Sit)

Description: 2000 word ESSAY

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2

Written Assignment - Component B (First Sit)

Description: 2000 word CAMPAIGN BRIEF

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6

Written Assignment - Component A (Resit)

Description: 2000 word ESSAY

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Written Assignment - Component B (Resit)

Description: 2000 word CAMPAIGN BRIEF

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

