



Module Specification

Theory and Research for Social Work Practice

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Theory and Research for Social Work Practice

Module code: UZVSMD-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Health, Community and Policy Studies

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: Theories of the human subject and identities – e.g. Gidden's structuration theory, symbolic interactionism, psychosocial theory

Contemporary society as the context of social work - globalisation, social justice, individualism, inequalities, diversity

Theories of power: structuralism, post-structuralism, social capital, empowerment, governmentality and self- governance

Theories of agency and change, e.g. psychoanalytical theory, habitus, motivation

Knowledge and information evaluation: using multiple sources, consider validity and reliability

Developing skills in critically reading social science research papers and critical appraisal skills, and applying research learning to social work practice thinking

Ethics for research

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Scheduled learning includes online lectures, seminars and workshops.

Directed Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, seminar task preparation, assignment preparation and completion etc.

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

MO1 Evaluate a range of theoretical social science perspectives through which people in their life worlds can be usefully understood

MO2 Understand a range of perspectives on the development of identities and how this knowledge can be utilised in social work practice

MO3 Demonstrate an understanding of theories of unequal power relations and their manifestation in class, gender and cultural differentiation and their application to social work

MO4 Discuss the strengths, limitations and ethical dimensions of a range of sources of knowledge for social work

MO5 Show a growing understanding of the role and importance of research in constructing knowledge, and the strengths and limitations and ethical dimensions of the major (qualitative and quantitative) research paradigms

MO6 Apply social sciences theories of the subject : service users and carers and workers, to the practices of social work

MO7 Develop critical reflective capacity in relation to the application of complex theory to understanding self and service users

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/uzvsmd-30-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzvsmd-30-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module has two assessment tasks; an online examination and a written assignment.

Online examination (up to 2500 words with a 24 hour window for completion); the skills of reading and critically discussing research papers will be examined by the critical discussion of a research paper as an online examination.

Assessment criteria

Critical evaluation and analysis

Factual accuracy

Understanding of relevant issues and ideas

Capacity to structure and present work

Formative assessment – critical discussion and analysis in seminars of set research papers for group discussion and peer feed-back

Written assignment; will assess students' critical understanding of a range of competing theories and how they can be used to enhance understanding for social work practice. The most useful format for this is an extended essay, in which ideas can be developed and complex connections explored (2500 words).

Formative assessment: presentation of an essay plan at group assessment support session for peer and tutor feed-back

Assessment criteria

Ability to relate theory and concepts to a discussion

Critical analysis and evaluation

Evidence of wide reading

Synthesis, structure, referencing

Assessment tasks:

Examination (Online) (First Sit)

Description: Online exam with questions based on research paper (up to 2500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: 2500 word essay

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO6, MO7

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Online exam with questions based on research paper (up to 2500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: 2500 word essay

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO6, MO7

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Social Work [Glenside] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Social Work [Sep][PT][Glenside][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-22