



## **Module Specification**

### **Nature and Use of Research (Sociology)**

Version: 2023-24, v4.0, 11 Jul 2023

#### **Contents**

<b>Module Specification .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 1: Information .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 2: Description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 3: Teaching and learning methods .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part 4: Assessment.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Part 5: Contributes towards .....</b>	<b>6</b>

## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Nature and Use of Research (Sociology)

**Module code:** UZSY5H-15-2

**Level:** Level 5

**For implementation from:** 2023-24

**UWE credit rating:** 15

**ECTS credit rating:** 7.5

**Faculty:** Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

**Department:** HAS Dept of Social Sciences

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Sociology and Criminology

**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:** The nature and impact of ethics and governance processes upon the generation of knowledge research in sociology.

Formulating research questions and using appropriate sociological research design and data collection skills.

Evaluating evidence of diverse kinds and drawing appropriate conclusions.

Managing and analysing data including indexing and retrieval of qualitative data.

Different approaches to research in sociology including content and discourse analysis and ethnography.

Methods of data collection including interviews, focus groups and surveys.

Research design in sociology including hypothetico-deductivism; exploratory research; case studies; evaluation research; action research; comparative research; negotiating access; managing field work; reflexivity and the use of self in research.

The philosophy, sociology and politics of social research including positivism versus interpretivism; anti-discriminatory research; participative methods; ethics, privacy and confidentiality; legal issues; context and uses of social research; and working with marginalised and 'hard to reach' groups.

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** An aspiration of this module is that students become practiced at utilising TEL, in particular through use of common online resources (on topics such as good ethical practice, developing research questions, writing research proposals) developed by the module team.

In seminars, students will engage in facilitated activities such as debates, problem based learning, group working, research etc.

Integral to this programme is the use of subject based as well as generic technologies. For instance, data analysis and modelling, are subject areas reliant on

a range of contemporary technologies using public domain data sources such as Home Office crime statistics, World Health Organisation Databases.

In addition modern technologies may be incorporated by programme teams delivering the module as vehicles of learning (e.g. blogs, podcasts) and as vehicles for learning through formative assessment (e.g. online portfolios, online tests, wikis, etc.)

The pattern of seminar delivery will vary according to the programmes the module is serving. The seminar schedule will be set and taught within programme teams, overseen by a single module leader.

For each contact hour, students will spend approximately 3 hours in independent study, including preparing their assessed research proposal.

The following Generic Graduate Skills are Introduced and Developed (In brackets is their specific strand e.g. presentation).

Communication (In-seminar debate)

Professionalism (Managing deadlines, submitting assignments)

Innovative and Enterprising (Seminar debates and assignments)

Forward Looking (Seminar debates and assignments)

Emotional Intelligence (Debating and listening skills in seminar debates)

Globally Engaged (Research topics and thinking through the global impacts and links for research questions).

The following Generic Graduate Skills are Introduced, Developed and Evidenced

Critical Thinking (Project Proposal)

Digital Fluency (Submitting online).

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

**MO1** Formulate research questions appropriate to Sociological Research

**MO2** Understand and engage in the processes through which knowledge is generated and claims to truth are evaluated within the discipline of Sociology

**MO3** Identify different frameworks through which social phenomena can be examined

**MO4** Apply standard procedures for sociological investigation, by reference to published research, as appropriate

**MO5** Show an understanding of the relevance of sociology to every-day situations and dilemmas

**MO6** Utilise and understand a variety of quantitative and qualitative research methods

**MO7** Understand the strengths and weaknesses of different research methods and how and why they may be used within different research frameworks

**Hours to be allocated:** 150

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Total = 150

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsy5h-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzsy5h-15-2.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The summative assessment is through a 2000 word research proposal which reflects the whole of the work through the module. The assessment supports students to produce a proposal which will form the basis of a final year sociology project. It should reflect a synthesis of relevant syllabus content and be written for a specialist sociological audience. The research proposal will provide an overview of the chosen topic area including relevant topic and

methodological literature, a research design, research questions and sub -questions relevant to the intended research topic.

**Assessment tasks:****Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Research proposal (2000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Research proposal (2000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Sociology with Psychology [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology with Criminology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology with Criminology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology with Criminology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BSc (Hons)  
2021-22

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BSc (Hons) 2021-  
22

Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Sociology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-  
22

Sociology with Criminology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-  
22

Sociology with Psychology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BSc (Hons) 2020-21

Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

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

Criminology and Sociology [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Criminology and Sociology [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-  
22

Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-  
22