University of the
West of England
BRISTOL

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Theorising Social life		
Module Code	UZSY6V-30-2	Level	2
For implementation from	September 2019		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Sociology and Criminology
Department	Health and social Sciences		
Contributes towards	BA (Hons) Sociology: Core BA (Hons) Sociology with Foundation: Core BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology: Core BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology with Foundation: Core BA (Hons) Sociology with Criminology: Core BA (Hons) Sociology with Criminology with Foundation: Core BA (H0ns) Sociology with Psychology: Core BA (Hons) sociology with Psychology with Foundation: Core		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description

This module has been developed to facilitate and support the acquisition of subject knowledge, sociological understanding and a range of practical and intellectual skills. At this level students are expected to generate ideas through the analysis of concepts at an abstract level with a command of specialised skills and the formulation of responses to well-defined and abstract problems: analyse and evaluate information; exercise significant judgement across a broad range of functions; and accept responsibility for achieving personal and group outcomes.
 	
This Level two module will be organized thematically, but each thematic block will introduce key theorists and theories of modern society. The module will be organized into six four week blocks comprising a lecture introducing key theorists and theory followed by three topic areas that allow the theories to be applied, analysed and evaluated. The module will provide a bridge between the level one social theory module that is focussed on classical sociology and theory-based level three option modules that focus on postmodern and post-structuralist theories and debates.
 	
Indicative Content
 	
   1. **Culture**
      • Key Theorists: Frankfurt School

- Indicative topic areas
  - Popular culture
  - Consumption
  - Media

2. **Urbanism**
   - Key Theorists: Simmel and the Chicago School
   - Indicative Topic Areas
     - Urban conflict and struggle
     - The Global/Postmodern City
     - Night-time economy

3. **Social Class and Inequality**
   - Key Theorists: Pierre Bourdieu, Diane Reay.
   - Indicative Topic Areas
     - Social mobility and meritocracy
     - Social class and education
     - Social class and health.

4. **Feminism, Family and Intimacy**
   - Key Theorists: Talcott Parsons, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Kate Millet, Heidi Hartmann.
   - Indicative topic Areas
     - The Human family
     - The Changing Family
     - Families of Choice

5. **Race and Ethnicity**
   Key Theorist – John Rex, Kenan Malik and Patricia Hill Collins (examples not set in stone)
   Indicative Topic Areas
   Genetics, Scientific Racism
   Multiculturalism
   Intersectionality

6. **Power, Government and Citizenship**
   - Key theorist: Michel Foucault
   - Indicative Topic Areas
     - Carceral Society
     - Migration and Population
     - Sexuality

There are also a series of areas that we see as additional as well as desirable for the module but these areas could be substituted for any of those above on the basis of staff availability year on year and would give us some flexibility to reorganise course content in case of staff illness or research leave. These extra areas are:

Environment, Nature and Risk
- Key Theorist: Ulrich Beck, Vandana Shiva
- Indicative Topic Areas
  - Industrialization, Reflexivity and Risk
  - The Environment and Identity
  - Contested Natures

Economy, Work and Technology
- Key Theorist: David Harvey
- Indicative Topic Areas
  - Global supply chains
  - Informational Economy
  - The Precariat

Social Protest and Social Movements
- Key Theorists: Post-industrial society theory (Castells, Melucci, Gorz, Bell)
- Indicative topic areas
  - Old and new social movements

o Global Justice Movement	
o Nationalism and the Far Right	

The module will be delivered via 1-hour weekly lectures and 1 hour weekly seminars and a 1 hour session for book review groups in term two and extra student support in term 1, supplemented by tutorials and off-site visits.

Part 3: Assessment

The summative assessment for this module will take the form of 4 x 250 minimum word portfolio on key concepts in terms 1 and a 1500 word book review in term 2. There will be an exam in term three. The key concepts assessment will enable students to engage The module's learning outcomes and assessment strategy support the sociology programme's fulfilment of the relevant QAA benchmarks and have been designed to take account of the level descriptors pertinent to a third year optional module.

The summative assessment will therefore be as follows:

Summative Assessment

1. A 1500 word essay on a key concept in term one.
2. 1500 word book review in term two.
3. A seen examination (2 hours) will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of processes of social development and change and an awareness of different theories, ideas, contexts and frameworks and recognise those areas where the knowledge base is most/least secure.

Formative Assessment

Students will have the opportunity to discuss plans of their summative assessments with the module leader within the context of the tutorials, and will receive ongoing formative input in the context of group-work, presentation and discussion within the seminar.

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)	**Component A**	
	A:	**B**:
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	**40%**	**60%**

First Sit	
Component A **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Seen exam. (2 Hours)	100%

First Sit	
Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. A 1500 word essay on a key concept	50%
2. 1500-word book review	50%

Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to:
	1. Evaluate theoretical and conceptual approaches of Sociological theoretical paradigms (Assessment B1 and A1) 2. Apply theoretical and conceptual understandings to aspects of contemporary society, and from the global to the local (Assessment B1 and A1)

3. Identify and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical positions and paradigms in relation to key topic areas studied (Assessment B1 and B2)
4. Undertakes research to provide analysis and/or explore existing data to identify patterns and relationships. Uses appropriate theoretical models to judge the significance of the data collected, recognising the limitations of the enquiry. (Assessment B2)
5. Use information-gathering skills necessary to successfully completing the assessments (Assessments B1, B2)
6. Effectively communicate, across a range of assessment types, an applied but critical understanding of theoretical positions in the Sociological canon (Assessment B1, B2 and A1)

Key Information Sets Information (KIS)

Key Information Set - Module data

Number of credits for this module				30	

Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	
300	72	228	0	300	✅

Contact Hours

The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;

Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam
Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test
Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)

Total Assessment

Total assessment of the module:			
Written exam assessment percentage			50%
Coursework assessment percentage			50%
Practical exam assessment percentage			0%
			100%

Reading List

Books

Journals:
Sociology
Cultural Sociology
Space and Polity
Social Policy and Society
Sociological Review
American Journal of Sociology

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