



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Contemporary Critiques of Modern Society		
Module Code	UZSNPA-30-3	Level	3
For implementation from	September 2019		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Criminology and Sociology
Department	Health and Social Sciences		
Contributes towards	BA (Hons) Sociology BA (Hons) Sociology (with foundation year) BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology BA (Hons) Criminology and Sociology (with foundation year) BA (Hons) Sociology with Criminology BA (Hons) Sociology with Criminology (with foundation year) BA (Hons) Criminology with Sociology BA (Hons) Criminology with Sociology (with foundation year) BA (Hons) Sociology with Psychology BA (Hons) Sociology with Psychology (with foundation year) BA (Hons) Psychology with Sociology (until June 2020)		
Module type:	Project		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description	
<p>The following are examples of selected areas of contemporary sociological critique and research which might be included in any one year in which the course is taught.</p> <p>1. Disciplinary Society</p> <p>Theorist: Michel Foucault</p>	

Issues: The growth of detailed, rationalised, regulation and normalisation of the whole social body; the creation of the modern subject.

Research: e.g. the nature and history of prisons, of the asylum, of schools and hospitals - and other disciplinary institutions; the nature of micro-power in such settings; associated methodological issues.

2. Ethnic hatred and mass violence in the modern era

Theorists: Theodore Adorno and Max Horkheimer, Slavoj Zizek, Zygmunt Bauman

Issues: Scientific rationality, mass violence and domination; the persistence of ethnic identity and nationalisms; the role of collective affect in social relations, etc.

Research: e.g. total war, racism and genocidal killing; and associated methodological issues.

3. Mass society, the culture industry, mass consumption, and mass media.

Theorists: Theodore Adorno and Max Horkheimer, Jean Baudrillard.

Issues: mass consumption, mass media and the dangers of mindlessness; domination and control in a world of lost of subjectivity and self-reflection etc.

Research: e.g. consumption, lifestyle and identity; mass politics and the mass media; fame and notoriety etc; associated methodological issues.

4. Jurgen Habermas's defence of Modernity and Enlightenment reason

Issues: Universal human interests; the rescue of substantive rationalisation; communicative action; system and lifeworld, etc.

Research: e.g. work on new forms of participatory democracy; associated methodological issues.

5. Globalisation and late capitalism

Theorists: Mike Featherstone, David Harvey, Anthony Giddens, Scott Lash, Manuel Castells, Roland Robertson, Martin Albrow

Issues: Trans-national capitalism; economic globalisation; mass consumption; the development and influence of communications technologies; the globalisation of culture; the globalization of everyday life; the mobility of capital and labour; the globalization of political practices; the global city, etc.

Research: e.g. (nation) state; everyday life of global cities; local-global businesses; associated methodological issues.

6. Postmodernity and Postmodernism

Theorists: Jean Francois Lyotard, Frederic Jameson, Jean Baudrillard, David Harvey, Zygmunt Bauman.

Issues: The totalitarian threats of Modernity, Enlightenment, and grand theory; social and political difference and diversity; critique of late capitalism etc.

Research: Work on social diversity, etc.; associated methodological issues.

7. Risk society

Theorists: Ulrich Beck, John Bellamy Foster, Anthony Giddens, Alberto Melucci, Scott Lash.

Issues: Environmental destruction; unsteerable political/social/economic processes; risk aspects of scientific research and development, Reflexive Modernity, New Social Movements etc.

Research: e.g. networks of renewal, institutional and individual reflexivity; ecological crisis; associated methodological issues.

Generic Graduate Skill	Specific strand (eg presentation) - Optional	Introduced	Practiced	Evidenced
1. Communication	Seminar discussions/Group Work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Professionalism	Following collegiate norms/working to deadlines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Critical Thinking	Assessment aims and outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Digital Fluency		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Innovative and Enterprising	Students exercise judgement in selecting texts to review	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Forward Looking		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Emotional Intelligence		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. Globally Engaged	Module content and assessments focussed on local-global interlinkages	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment on this module consists of 100% Coursework (Component A):

- 1 x 2,000 word **Book Review** (Element 1)
- 1 x 2,000 word **Essay** (Element 2)

The assessment strategy has been designed to enable students to meet the learning outcomes of the module, which include both subject-specific knowledge and skills and also transferable skills directly aligned to UWE strategy on producing Ready and Able Graduates. This is because both assignments are designed specifically to

link cutting-edge social theory to substantive real-world issues and problems (e.g. economic and ecological sustainability).

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.




All assignments on the module are summative.

Coursework (Book Review and Essay) assessments are utilised on this module because coursework is a suitable medium for testing a range of aptitudes required of the learner – referencing and bibliographical skills, preparatory reading and research skills, working to deadlines, synthesising summarisation and evaluation skills, self-reflection, organising academic work, ICT competencies, etc.

Study Skills deficits (including plagiarism) are addressed at the preparatory stages of the assignments. Students are advance-prepared for the demands of the assignments, including by receiving detailed guidance on how to avoid inadvertent plagiarism.

Opportunities for formative assessment will be given during the module, such as in class discussion and feedback.

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)	Component A2	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A:	B:
	100	
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Book Review (2000 words)	50	
2. Essay (2000 words)	50	
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1.		
2.		
Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Written Assignment (4,000 words)	100	
2.		
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1.		
2.		

Part 4: Learning Outcomes & KIS Data																															
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate an advanced reflective understanding of key concepts and theoretical approaches developed within selected contemporary sociological critiques of modern society (A-1/2). 2. Demonstrate a critical reflective awareness of social context, of social diversity and inequality, and their impact on the lives of individuals and groups (A-2) 3. Demonstrate advanced understanding of comparative empirical research findings in selected areas of contemporary sociological research (A-1/2). 4. Demonstrate in-depth understanding of social processes underpinning global social change (A-2). 5. Appreciate the complexity of human behaviour and social phenomena, through the evaluation, synthesising and application of evidence and the production of reasoned sociological argument (A-1/2). 6. Appreciate the contextual relationships between specific texts of sociological critique and broader sociological perspectives on contemporary social problems (e.g. genocide, economic instability, ecological degradation, etc.) (A-1) 																														
Key Information Sets Information (KIS)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: left;"><u>Key Information Set - Module data</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="5"><i>Number of credits for this module</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid black;">30</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Hours to be allocated</td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Scheduled learning and teaching study hours</td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Independent study hours</td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Placement study hours</td> <td style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Allocated Hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">300</td> <td style="text-align: center;">72</td> <td style="text-align: center;">228</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0</td> <td style="text-align: center;">300</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Key Information Set - Module data</u>					<i>Number of credits for this module</i>									30	Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	300	72	228	0	300					
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Contact Hours	<p>The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;</p> <p>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)</p>																														
Total Assessment	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;">Total assessment of the module:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Written exam assessment percentage</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coursework assessment percentage</td> <td style="text-align: center;">100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Practical exam assessment percentage</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Total assessment of the module:		Written exam assessment percentage	0%	Coursework assessment percentage	100%	Practical exam assessment percentage	0%		100%																				
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Reading List	Link to CCMS Online Reading List:																														

	https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/440BB1CF-29F2-2A94-ECB7-BBB26EA9B068.html
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First Approval Date (and panel type)	19 May 2011			
Revision ASQC Approval Date <i>Update this row each time a change goes to ASQC</i>	26/06/2016	Version	3.1	Link to RIA
	29/05/2019		4	RIA 12781