Wrexham glyndŵr UNIVERSITY

MODULE SPECIFICATION PROFORMA

Module Title:	Research Strategies and Ethical Issues	**Level**:	4	**Credit Value**:	20

Module code:	SOC411	**Is this a new module?**	No	**Code of module being replaced**:	

Cost Centre:	GASY	**JACS3 code**:	X210

Trimester(s) in which to be offered:	1, 2	**With effect from:**	September 16

School:	Social & Life Sciences	**Module Leader:**	Dr Jacquie Don

Scheduled learning and teaching hours	75 hrs
Guided independent study	125 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered	Core	Option
BA (Hons) Public and Social Policy	✓	☐

Pre-requisites

Module Aims

- To develop an understanding and critical appreciation of the nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in relation to social and public policy.
- To develop an awareness of a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods available to the social scientist.
- To understand the strengths and weakness of a variety of research methods.
- To develop practical research skills in data collection and analysis.
- To develop an awareness of the ethical issues around the treatment of secondary and primary data collection, analysis, and representation.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

KS1	Written, oral and media communication skills
KS2	Leadership, team working and networking skills
KS3	Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
KS4	Information technology skills and digital literacy
KS5	Information management skills
KS6	Research skills
KS7	Intercultural and sustainability skills
KS8	Career management skills
KS9	Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
KS10	Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Apply research skills to search and retrieve information using the library and internet.	KS3	KS4
		KS6	KS9
2	Evaluate published research reports with reference to their methodological rigour (e.g. reliability, validity, generalisation) and ethical appropriateness.	KS1	KS6
		KS3	
3	Understand the different approaches to social research (e.g. quantitative and qualitative) and consider their strengths and weaknesses.	KS1	KS2
		KS3	
		KS6	KS10
4	Design and conduct basic research using one qualitative (interview) and one quantitative (survey) method.	KS2	KS3
		KS8	
		KS9	KS10

5	Understand the need to follow ethical guidelines when conducting research.	KS1	KS2
		KS6	KS8
		KS7	

Transferable/key skills and other attributes

- Research and study kills
- Critical thinking skills
- Communication skills
- Team working skills
- Problem Solving skills
- Information Technology skills
- Reflection on Learning.

Derogations
NA

Assessment:

Assessment 1: Essay: Ethical considerations in Social Policy research

Assessment 2: Report 1: Students will be supplied with a set of secondary data and a short report is to be presented, including analysis (descriptive statistics).

Assessment 3: Report 2: As a group students will collect a small amount of primary quantitative data (survey) which will be analysed and presented appropriately.

Assessment 4: Report 3: As a group students will collect a small amount of primary qualitative data (interviews) which will be analysed and presented appropriately.

Formative assessment: A series of online activities (VLE) will be completed designed to provide formative feedback on academic writing progress and understanding of research methodology.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	5	Essay	25%		1,000
2	1, 2, 3, 4	Report	25%		1,000
3	1, 2, 3, 4	Report	25%		1,000
4	1, 2, 3, 4	Report	25%		1,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:
The module will use a variety of methods including lectures, seminars, discussions and workshops. All materials will be available on the VLE (Moodle) and links to online resources (podcasts, videos, and datasets) will be provided. Opportunity for group work will be available within sessions as well as via discussion forum on VLE. Specific SPSS workshops

will also be scheduled for development of data management and analysis as well as competent use of SPSS.

Syllabus outline:

In public and social policy research is crucial to underpinning policy development. This module will include the following topics:

Topics will include :
- Reviewing the literature
- Research design
- The research process
- Report writing
- Ethical issues in research
- Assessing published research
- Qualitative and Quantitative methods of data collection (e.g. case study; interviews; questionnaires; focus groups; observation)
- Basic statistical procedures and SPSS
- Basic qualitative data analysis methods

Bibliography:

Essential reading

- Matthews, B & Ross, L. (2010). Research Methods: A practical guide for the social sciences. Harlow: Pearson Education
- Bryman,A. , (2015). Social Research Methods. 5th ed. Oxford : Oxford University Press

Other indicative reading

- Atkinson, A. & Delamont, S (eds) (2010) SAGE Qualitative Research Methods (SAGE Benchmarks in Social Research Methods series) London: Sage Publications, Ltd.
- Blaxter, L. (2010) How to research (4th edition). Buckingham, Open University Press.
- Creswell, J. (2013) Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches. London: Sage Publications, Ltd.
- Dolowitz, D., Buckler, S. & Sweeney, F. (2008). Researching Online. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Fink, A. (2009) How to Conduct Surveys. London: Sage.
- Gilbert, N. (ed) (2015) Researching Social Life (4th Edition). London: Sage Publications Ltd.
- Greener, Ian. (2011). Designing Social Research: A Guide for the Bewildered. London, Sage.
- Hammersley, M. (2011) Methodology? Who needs it? London: Sage.

- Punch, K. (2013). Introduction to Social research: Qualitative & Quantitative Approaches. London, Sage Publications, Ltd.
- Schutt, R. (2009). Investigating the Social World: The Process and Practice of Research (6th edition) London, Sage.
- Walliman, N. (2013). Your Research Project: Designing and planning your work. London: Sage.
- Wisker, G. (2009) The Undergraduate Research Handbook (Palgrave Study Skills) Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.