

Module specification

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Module code	SOC542
Module title	Research Methods
Level	5
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLs
Module Leader	Dr Caroline Gorden
HECoS Code	100484
Cost Code	GACJ

Programmes in which module to be offered

BA (Hons) Criminology and Criminal Justice	Core
BA (Hons) Law and Criminal Justice	Core
LLB (Hons) Law	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement tutor support	0hrs
Supervised learning e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision (level 6 projects and dissertation modules only)	0 hrs
Total active learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	170 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	May 2021
With effect from date	September 2021
Date and details of revision	Revised July 2023 – addition of LLB (Hons) Law programme title
Version number	3

Module aims

To develop students' understanding and critical appreciation of the nature and appropriate use of research strategies and methods in relation to exploring issues of crime, victimisation, and responses to crime and deviance.

Module Learning Outcomes - at the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Critically evaluate the commonly used concepts and procedures in quantitative and qualitative research.
2	Review and evaluate evidence and identify methodologies inherent in research approaches.
3	Examine a range of research strategies and methods and critically assess the appropriateness of their use.
4	Identify an appropriate strategy for specific research problems.
5	Critically assess the ethical issues arising in particular research situations.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

2,500 word research proposal related to the research project students would complete at level 6

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1-5	Research Proposal	100%

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy is grounded in the University's commitment to an Active Learning Framework (ALF) so that learning will be both accessible and active and include synchronous and a-synchronous elements. Face to face classroom teaching will be supplemented by online lectures wherein students will be expected to complete activities such as watching Panopto videos; undertake Other Indicative Reading; complete quizzes and exercises; and post comment for a-synchronous debate. These activities will be the subject of formative feedback by the module tutor. Added to this, will be access to staff who provide presence, challenge and support for student learning and can relate learning to real world uses.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

What is research?

Qualitative and Quantitative Research

Qualitative Research Methods
Doing a Literature Review
Quantitative Research Methods
Research Ethics
Writing your Aims and Objectives
Developing your Qualitative Questions/Design
Developing your Quantitative Questions/Design
Data Collection

Indicative Bibliography

Essential Reads

Bryman, A. (2015) *Social Research Methods*, 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Matthews, B. and Ross, L. (2010) *Research Methods. A practical guide for the social sciences*. Essex: Pearson Education Limited.

Wincup, E. (2017) *Criminological Research: Understanding Qualitative Methods*. Sage Publications.

Other Indicative Reading

Cresswell J W. and Cresswell, J. D. (2017) *Research Design, 5th edition*. Sage Publications.

Crow, I. and Semmens, N. (2007) *Researching Criminology*. Open University Press.

David, M. and Sutton C. (2004) *Social Research – The Basics*. Sage Publications.

Denscombe, M. (2002) *Ground Rules for Good Research: A 10 Point Guide for Social Researchers*. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Denscombe, M. (2017) *The Good Research Guide: For Small Scale Social Research Projects*. Buckingham. Open University Press.

Gray, D. E. (2017) *Doing Research in the Real World*. Sage Publications.

Davies, P. and Francis, P. (2018) *Doing Criminological Research*. Sage Publications.

May, T. (2011) *Social Research: Issues, Methods and Processes*. Buckingham: Open University Press.

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Engaged
Creative
Enterprising
Ethical
Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability
Digital Fluency
Organisation
Critical Thinking

Emotional Intelligence
Communication