

## Module Specification

### Module Summary Information

<b>1</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	Researching Social Life
<b>2</b>	<b>Module Credits</b>	20
<b>3</b>	<b>Module Level</b>	4
<b>4</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	SOC4028

<b>5</b>	<b>Module Overview</b>
<p>This is a core module which aligns with the aims of the Sociology programme by introducing students to the principles of the practice of social research and debates regarding social research methods. Students will understand the practice of undertaking social research which is theoretically informed, knowledge-applied, evidence based, and interdisciplinary. By the end of the module students should have a sound knowledge of how theoretical perspectives inform research practice and gained an understanding of the process of 'doing sociology'.</p> <p>This module will assist students to develop a sound understanding and knowledge of the sociological research which has examined social institutions, social changes, and the social dynamics that shape identities and interactions. With a focus on deep learning students will study a range of contemporary social issues and will be encouraged to link the philosophy and practice of research to the wider programme-level expectations and learning outcomes.</p> <p>In alignment with the wider Programme Philosophy and Aims, this module will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop a solid understanding of the differences between quantitative and qualitative research traditions and the theoretical paradigms that underpin them</li> <li>• To understand the ethical and practical considerations underpinning the design and conduct of sociological research</li> <li>• To facilitate students in developing the research skills required to produce an evidenced based research project</li> <li>• To understand the role of reflexivity in the research process, specifically reflecting on the values and beliefs of the researcher</li> <li>• To enable students to acquire a broad range of transferable and employability-related skills, knowledge, and professional behaviours and attitudes relevant to a wide range of graduate employers</li> </ul> <p>In alignment with the wider Programme Learning and Teaching Strategy, this module will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage engaged and deep understanding of the underlying rationale for research in the social sciences</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of practical and some of the ethical issues that arise in the conduct of research in the social sciences.</li> <li>• </li> </ul>	

- Facilitate students becoming independent learners engaged in a range of pre-, and post-, sessional tasks outside the classroom, such as reading, research, collaborative work, and practical experience

6	Indicative Content
	Nature, process and strategies of social research Planning a Research Project Getting started: Literature review and ethics in social research Library Workshop Qualitative research: Secondary analysis Ethnography, participant and structured observation Sampling, interviewing, questionnaires and focus groups Discourse Analysis & Content Analysis Semiotic Analysis Audience Studies Nvivo session Quantitative Research: SPSS session Sociology Careers Writing up your Research

7	Module Learning Outcomes
	<b>On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:</b>
	1 Identify differences between quantitative and qualitative research traditions and the theoretical paradigms that underpin them.
	2 Understand theoretical, ethical and practical considerations underpinning the design and conduct of sociological research.
	3 Produce a well-structured research proposal with a supporting literature review.
	4 Demonstrate critical and informed thinking about complex social issues and apply sociological analysis and sociological concepts to a range of topics.

8	Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome			
	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1,2,3,4	x		

<b>9 Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities</b>	
<b>Learning Activities</b>	<b>Hours</b>
<b>Scheduled Learning (SL)</b> includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	36
<b>Directed Learning (DL)</b> includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	44
<b>Private Study (PS)</b> includes preparation for exams	120
<b>Total Study Hours:</b>	200