1. **Title of the module**

SOCI9980 (SO998) – Dissertation (SSPSSR)

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research

1. **The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 7

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

60 credits (30 ECTS)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn term (term 1) Spring term (term 2),Summer term and long vacation (term 3)

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None (All modules in stage 1 must be successfully completed prior to proceeding to the dissertation*)*

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

Civil Society, NGO and non-profit Studies MA

\*Criminology MA

\*Criminology with a Term Abroad MA

\*International Social Policy MA

\*Methods of Social Research MA

Philanthropic Studies (distance learning) MA

\*Sociology MA

\*’Two year Masters’ versions of the appropriate programmes above

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

8.1 Demonstrate advanced knowledge of theoretical approaches within sociology, criminology and social policy and to evaluate their application to the chosen research topic and questions.

8.2 Critically analyse the nature of social relationships between individuals, groups and social institutions and the nature of social change and stability, drawing upon an extensive review of literature and/or qualitative and quantitative research techniques.

8.3 Identify research strategies and methods and/or research publications, and illustrate their use in gaining knowledge in sociology, criminology and social policy.

8.4 Demonstrate the critical ability to undertake investigations of social questions, issues and problems.

8.5 Demonstrate originality in the critical analysis of research data and literature relevant to the chosen topic area

8.6 Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the complex social, ethical and political context in which social science research takes place.

8.7 Demonstrate the capacity to formulate a research question, to produce a research proposal, and to plan and execute a piece of independent research using primary and/or secondary data sources or other research publications*.*

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

9.1 The ability to communicate a line of argument in writing using appropriate technical aids as necessary.

9.2 The ability to critically assess and summarise arguments, reports, documents and other written data.

9.3 The capacity for self-directed and independent study and the application of learning to the production of a single piece of original research; and the ability to organise learning in terms of employing time management skills, and the capacity to work to deadlines.

9.4 Problem-solving skills: evidence of an ability to propose alternative solutions to social questions, issues, problems.

9.5 Evaluative and analytical skills: an ability to provide accurate descriptive summaries of arguments, reports, documents and other written and verbal data.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The aims of this module are twofold:

First, to provide students with the opportunity to independently carry out an in-depth inquiry to investigate a research question(s) of their choice, producing a coherent review of the relevant literature, a logical discussion and a clearly communicated set of conclusions in the form of a dissertation.

Second, to prepare students to become ‘research-minded’ practitioners in order that they have the capacity to undertake research in practice settings and/or take a lead role in supervising others in such work.

The following represents the likely format for curriculum delivery:

In mid-November, there will be a two-hour workshop, which will outline the aims, the structure and the process of the dissertation. During the spring term, the students will finalise their dissertation proposal with their chosen supervisor. If the dissertation requires ethical research approval, an application will be submitted to the school research ethics committee by the beginning of the summer term. During the summer term and vacation, students will meet their supervisor every fortnight to discuss the progress of their dissertation. The supervisors will provide feedback on written work and will set monthly work plans and targets for the students. The dissertation topic will relate to a key question, issue and problem within social science.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Biggam, J (2011) *Succeeding with your master’s dissertation*, Open University Press

Burnett, J (2009), *Doing your social science dissertation*, Sage

Furseth, I and Everett, E (2013), *Doing your master’s dissertation*, Sage

Hart, C (2005), *Doing your master’s dissertation*, Sage

Meloy, J (2002), *Writing the qualitative dissertation*, Lawrence Erlbaum

Rudestam, K and Newton R (2001), *Surviving your dissertation, 2nd Edition,* Sage Publications

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 9

Private study hours: 591

Total study hours: 600

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

Coursework – dissertation (12,000-15,000 words) - 100%

13.2 Reassessment methods

100% coursework

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | *8.1* | *8.2* | *8.3* | *8.4* | *8.5* | *8.6* | *8.7* | *9.1* | *9.2* | *9.3* | *9.4* | *9.5* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Workshop |  |  |  |  |  | **X** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Supervision meetings | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  | **X** |  |  |  | **X** | **X** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assignment –dissertation 12,000-15,000 words. | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

a) Accessible resources and curriculum

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

The degree to which internationalisation activities will occur in this module will depend on the given dissertation topic. This said, a range of research and presentation skills will be developed that are applicable to international contexts

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**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 23/03/2017 | Minor | September 2017 | 13, 17 |  |
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Revised FSO Feb 2018