1. **Title of the module**

SOCI6790 (SO679) Research Dissertation

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 6

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

30 credits (15 ECTS)

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

Autumn term (term 1) and Spring term (term 2)

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

SOCI6020 (SO602) Social Research Methods or an equivalent module (which may include SO546 Qualitative Social Research Methods for students on the ‘with quantitative research minor programmes).

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

BA Criminology and associated programmes

BA Sociology and associated programmes

BA Social Policy and associated programmes

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

8.1 Identify a social research question.

8.2 Identify appropriate means of investigating selected research questions.

8.3 Test research question in terms of findings.

8.4 Demonstrate skill in understanding and putting into practice links between theory and research.

8.5 Demonstrate skill in systematically writing up the selection and investigation of, findings, and implications of a specified research question.

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

9.1 Demonstrate bibliographic and computer search skills.

9.2 Demonstrate skill in critical thinking, analysis and synthesis, including ability to evaluate statements in relation to evidence, line of reasoning and implicit values.

9.3 Distinguish between technical, normative, moral and political questions.

9.4 Critically assess scholarly theory and data and their implications.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module aims to enable students to design and conduct their own piece of research. This can be primary research where students collect and analyse their own data, or it can be library based, where students research existing literature or re-analyse data collected by others. The research can be about a particular policy or policy area, social problem, social development, or matter of sociological interest. The dissertation will usually be set out as a series of chapters. In order to assist students with designing and writing a dissertation a supervisor – a member of staff in SSPSSR - will have an initial meeting with students (during the summer term of Year 2 where possible) and then during the Autumn and Spring terms students will have at least six formal dissertation sessions with their supervisor. These may be held individually or with other students. In addition there will be two lectures by the module convenor which will also support students’ progress, workshops on bibliography development (Autumn term) and data analysis (Spring term).

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

Aveyard, H. (2014) *Doing a literature review in health and social care: a practical guide*, 3rd edition, Open University Press

Aveyard, Sharp and Wooliams (2011) *A beginners guide to critical thinking and writing*, Open University Press

Bell, J. (2005) *Doing your Research project*, Buckingham, Open University Press.

Cottrell, S. (2003) *The Study Skills Handbook*, Basingstoke, Palgrave

Crème, P. & Lee, M. (2003) *Writing at University*, Maidenhead, Open University Press.

Denscombe, M. (2010) *The Good Research Guide* 4th edition, Open University Press

Denscombe, M. (2012) *Research Proposals: A Practical Guide*, Open University Press

Girden, E. (2001) Evaluating research articles from start to finish, London, Sage.

Hart, C. (1998) *Doing a Literature Review*, London, Sage.

May, T. (1997) *Social Research, Issues, Methods and Process*, Buckingham, Open University Press.

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 16

Private study hours: 334 total (10 per week)

Total study hours: 350

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

Coursework – interim submission (2,500 words) - 25%

Coursework - dissertation (12,500 words) - 75%

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)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | X | X | X |  | X | X | X | X | X |
| Supervisions/ Group Meetings | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Interim submission 2500 words | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Dissertation -12500 words | 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 range of generic skills which will be developed are applicable to international contexts and the specific skills have potential international relevance.

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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.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 09/03/20 | Minor | 2019-2020 | 13,14 | No |
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Revised FSO Jan 2018