

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	SWK418
Module Title	Introduction to Social Policy and Poverty
Level	4
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100503
Cost Code	GASW

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status	core
BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award)	core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Placement tutor support	0 hrs
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	36 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	164 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	16/08/23
With effect from date	01/09/23
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

The module aims to introduce students to key social policies and the political/theoretical values and assumptions on which they are based. It will provide a range of policy-focused frameworks with the aim of enabling the application of knowledge and understanding to a range of practice scenarios and case studies. Central to the module is its aim to enable an understanding of the connection between social policy, poverty approaches, and the social worker role, applying skills of critical reflexive thinking and the application of a Critical Social Policy Paradigm (Dean, 2019).

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

1	Demonstrate an awareness of the political/theoretical values and assumptions upon which key social policies are based.
2	Apply their knowledge and understanding to a practice-scenario/case study example using a range of poverty-focused frameworks.
3	Show how approaches to social policy and poverty relate to the role of the social worker in Wales.
4	Demonstrate emerging critical, reflexive skills through the promotion of a critical social policy paradigm.

Assessment

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

This section outlines the type of assessment task the student will be expected to complete as part of the module. More details will be made available in the relevant academic year module handbook.

Assessment: Discussion of a case study using a Poverty-Aware Social Work (PASW) Framework (1, 500 words + 10%).

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2, 3, 4	Written Assignment	100%

Derogations

Only two attempts at the assignment.

This module must achieve at least 40% pass mark and is not eligible for compensation.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The module will use a variety of methods for teaching & learning, including interactive lectures, student-centred group work via small group workshops, interactive discussion forums on Moodle, and a formal class debate. The principles of co-production will 'thread' through the module, with semester 2 developing the theories and frameworks for understanding poverty and policy further through the application of knowledge using case study approaches in a social work context. It is also hoped to have members of Outside In, the service user and carer organisation that informs and contributes to the Social Work programme, contribute to sessions.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

SEM ONE:

- What is social policy and what has it got to do with social work?
- Poverty and policy – what's the connection? Exploring poverty as a social justice issue (and not just about social exclusion).
- Poverty, policy and social work – the historical context.
- The Poor Law Amendment Act.
- The Charity Organisation Society: An individualised approach to poverty?
- The Beveridge report: Social Democratic approaches to poverty.
- Thatcherism, policy and social work: the neo-liberal agenda and the role of the social worker. Poverty as character flaw.
- Class debate.
- Wales, policy, and poverty approaches: The Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales). What's it got to do with poverty?

SEM TWO:

- Poverty-aware approaches/individualized/psychological approaches and the role of the social worker.
- What do social workers think about poverty?: ethics and practice – is it ok to 'tweak' the codes of practice if the end justify the means?
- What do individuals think about poverty? How do we hear their voices?
- Applying the Poverty-Aware approach.
- Reflection: Radical responses, social work organisations and the response to poverty.
- Assignment sessions.

Indicative Bibliography:

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential Reads

Green, C. and Clarke, K. (2016), *Social Policy for Social Work*. Cambridge: Polity.

Krumer-Nevo, M. (2020), *Radical Hope: Poverty-Aware Practice for Social Work*. London: Policy Press

Other indicative reading

Alcock, P., May, M. & Rawlingson, K. (2008), *The Students' Companion to Social Policy*. 3rd ed. London: Wiley-Blackwell.

ATP Fourth World Movement <https://www.atd-fourthworld.org>

Beckwith, D. (2015), *Social Work, Poverty and Social Exclusion*. McGraw-Hill Education.

Bochel, H. and Daly, G. (2014), *Social Policy*. London: Routledge.

Dean, H. (2019), *Social Policy (Short Introductions)*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Parrott, L. (2002), *Social Work and Social Care*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.

Employability – the University Skills Framework

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Graduate attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave the University having achieved key employability skills as part of their study. The following attributes will be covered within this module either through the content or as part of the assessment. The programme is designed to cover all attributes and each module may cover different areas.

Core Attributes

Engaged
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence

Practical Skillsets

Organisation
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication