Module specification

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Module Code	POL505
Module Title	Research Methods and Skills
Level	5
Credit value	20
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100484
Cost Code	GACJ

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BSc (Hons) Professional Policing	Core

Pre-requisites

None

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 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	**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	January 2019
With effect from date	September 2019

For office use only	
Date and details of revision	January 2022 – minor changes to syllabus as per CoP requirements July 2022 – removed an LO, change to assessment strategy
Version number	3

Module aims

To ensure students gain an understanding and critical appreciation of research methods and skills

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

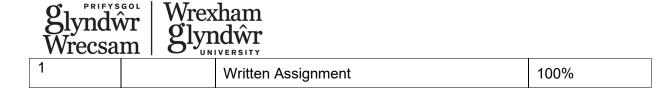| 1	Understand the importance of planning research activities and outline the strengths and weaknesses of research methodologies and approaches (NPC mapping: Research methods and Skills: 1.1,1.2,1.3,2.1,2.2,2.3,2.4,2.5,2.6,2.7,2.8,2.9.,2.10)
2	Explain statistical tests and the interpretation of data (NPC mapping: Research methods and Skills: 6.1)
3	Research, analyse and evaluate relevant research publications and qualitative and quantitative data (NPC mapping: Research methods and Skills:8.1,8.2,8.3,8.4)
4	Develop a proposal for research to explore the nature, extent and causes of a policing issue/problem (NPC mapping: Research methods and Skills:10.7)

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.

Students to write a research proposal to explore the nature, extent and causes of a policing related area (3,000 words)

Assessment guidance will be provided that directs students towards meeting the relevant learning outcomes

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)

1		Written Assignment	100%

Derogations

Module cannot be compensated/condoned on BSc Professional Policing
All elements of assessment must be passed on BSc (Hons) Professional Policing

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy used in the module is grounded in the University's commitment to Universal Design for Learning (UDL), the key principle of which holds that students are encouraged to participate in higher education when they are exposed to flexible ways of learning by staff that engage them in different ways using innovative and creative approaches. Accordingly, the module embrace the University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) which supports accessible, flexible learning that creates a sense of belonging for students. Each module is associated, thereby, with face to face and online elements

Indicative Syllabus Outline

LO1:Understand the importance of planning research activities and outline the strengths and weaknesses of research methodologies and approaches

Research design
Focus of research and development of research questions
How to formulate an ethically sound research question
Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods including experimental design
Approaches to data collection:
  • Surveys
  • Interviews
  • Observation
  • Use of secondary sources
How to choose, implement and critically evaluate appropriate methods of research
Data Sampling
Design frames and their strengths and weaknesses
Data Reliability and validity
Research ethics to be adhere to
Research standards
Peer review
Use of data (qualitative and quantitative)

LO2:Explain statistical tests and the interpretation of data
Basics of numeracy and statistical information-gathering

LO3:Research, analyse and evaluate relevant research publications and qualitative and quantitative data
Critiquing research literature
Research ethics

POL 505

Relationship between theories and methods
Evidence-based policing

LO4:Develop a proposal for research to explore the nature, extent and causes of a policing issue/problem (identified in the module "Evidence based policing and Problem Solving")
Develop a proposal for research to explore the nature, extent and causes of the issue/problem, including:
- research aims and questions
- consideration of different research designs
- strength and weakness of different research methods
- project management details (e.g. timescales, resources)

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads
- Cockbain,E. and Knutsson,J. (2018) Applied Police Research; challenges and Opportunities. London: Routledge
- Kennedy, D., 2014. Working in the field: Police research in theory and in practice. In Applied Police Research (pp. 25-36). Routledge.
- Kumar, R. (2014) Research Methodology. London: Sage
- Wincup,E. (2017) Criminological Research. London: Sage

Other indicative reading
- Brown, R., 2014. Tip-Toeing Through the Credibility Mine Field: Gaining social acceptance in policing research. In Applied Police Research (pp. 50-60). Routledge.
- Bryman, A. (2015) Social Research Methods (2nd ed). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Brunger,M. and Tong,S. (2015) Introduction to Policing Research. London: Routledge
- Holgersson, S., 2014. An inside job: managing mismatched expectations and unwanted findings when conduction police research as a police officer.
- Jupp V. et al (2011) Doing Criminological Research. London: Sage Publications
- King, R and Wincup, E. (2010) Doing Research on Crime and Justice. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Mazerolle, L., Lum, C. and Braga, A.A., 2014. Using Experimental Designs to Study Police Interventions. In The Oxford Handbook of Police and Policing.
- Neyroud, P., 2016. The ethics of learning by testing: the police, professionalism and researching the police. In Research Ethics in Criminology (pp. 89-106). Routledge.
- Robson C. (2016) Real World Research. London: Blackwell.
- Noaks, L. & Wincup, E. (2004) Criminological Research–Understanding Qualitative Methods. London: Sage Publications.

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr 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
Enterprising
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes
Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets
Digital Fluency
Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication