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PRIFYSGOL GLYNDŴR WRECSAM
GLYNDŴR UNIVERSITY WREXHAM

MODULE SPECIFICATION FORM

Module title:	**Social Work Theory**		Level	**6**	Credit Value	**20**

Module code:	SOC322	Cost Centre:	GASW	JACS2 code*: V550

Office use only: To be completed by AQSU:	Date approved: Sept 2011 Date revised: Sept 2013 Version no: 2

Semester(s) in which to be offered: 1 and 2	With effect from: Sept 2011

Existing/New: **E**	Title of module being replaced: N/A

Originating Subject: Social Work	Module Leader: Emyr Owen

Module duration (total hours) 200 Scheduled learning & teaching hours 60 (direct) 60 (self-directed) Independent study hours 80 Placement hours 0	Status: core/option/ elective (identify programme where appropriate): **Core**

Percentage taught by Subjects other than originating Subject (please name other Subjects):	0%

Programme(s) in which to be offered: BA (Hons) Social Work: Qualified Status BA (Hons) Social Welfare (exit/alternative award only)	Pre-requisites per programme (between levels):	Co-requisites per programme (within a level):

Module Aims:
To enable students to critically analyse and evaluate the development of social work theory in a historical, socio-political and philosophical context.

To enable students to critically analyse and evaluate the complexity and diversity of social work theories and consider their application to contemporary social work practice.

To enable students to critically analyse and evaluate case work methods within a wider theoretical, philosophical and ideological context.

To develop and foster critical thinking, application and reflection on the nature of understanding social reality from a variety of theoretical concepts.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding:

At the end of the period of learning, the student will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the range of social work theories in the context of anti-oppressive practice.
2. Critically analyse the theories underpinning the development of case work.
3. Locate and examine social work theory in a historical, socio-political and philosophical context.
4. Critically evaluate the relationship between theory & contemporary practice demands.

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes:

Anti-discriminatory and Anti-oppressive practice, analysis and synthesis, skills in working with others, communication skills, Intervention and evaluation, problem solving skills, critical awareness and reflection, gathering information.

Assessment: please indicate the type(s) of assessment (e.g. examination, oral, coursework, project) and the weighting of each (%). ***Details of indicative assessment should also be included.***

Assessment - Critically evaluate the historical development of case work and its associated theoretical underpinnings in the context of anti-oppressive practice and the wider socio-political context and examine how these theories relate to practice in relation to contemporary demands.

Students on the BA (Hons) Social Work:Qualified Status are permitted two attempts only at the assessment for this module.

Assessment number	Learning outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting	Duration (exam)	Word count (course work)
1	All	Essay	100%		3,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Teaching methodologies underpinning this module will include the utilisation of:

Drawing primarily upon constructivist, dialogic, socioculturalist and meta-cognitive teaching methodologies, this module will extend and build upon prior learning from social work methods during year 2. A range of small and large group strategies, will be employed to encourage peer learning, formative assessment processes and feedback, as well as visual, didactic and auditory (transmission) teaching methodologies which considers differentiation in student learners and learning preferences.

Syllabus outline:
Semester One: What is social work theory and how does this relate to epistemological and ontological perspectives in the social sciences. Theories underpinning the history and development of casework in social work. How social work theories and methods change historically. Revisiting paradigms in wider theoretical (epistemological and ontological) perspectives. Pathologising in Case Work: Alternative paradigms for practice. Rational technical and practical moral activity social work, Science Vs Creativity, positivism verses naturalism. Dialectical ways of understanding social reality. Lay theorising and anti-discriminatory practice, creativity and critical social work practice. Social Work & modernity (positivism and empiricism), social constructionism, post-modernism, post-structuralism, feminism, Marxism, ethnography, critical realism, functionalism, radicalism, humanism, narrative theory, existentialism.

Semester Two: The teaching of this module is brief in semester two based on practice placement timings and so these three weeks primarily focus upon critically reflecting upon the knowledge gained during this module and applying this to contemporary practice demands, ethical dilemmas, the social work role and task and policy/ideological context.

Bibliography

Essential Reading

Burr, V. (2003), S*ocial Constructionism, 2nd ed.* London, Routledge.

Danermark, B., Ekstrom, M., Jakobsen, L. and Karlsson, J. C. (2002), *Explaining Society, Critical realism in the social sciences.* Abingdon: Oxon.

Gray, M. and Webb S.A. (2013) 2nd edtn *Social Work Theories and Methods,* London: SAGE.

Healy, K. (2005) *Social Work Theories in Context,* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Healy, K. (2005), Social *Work Theories in Context: Creating Frameworks for Practice.* Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Howe, D. (2009)*,* A *Brief Introduction to Social Work Theory.* Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Indicative Reading

Joseph, J. (2002), *Hegemony: A Realist Perspective.* London: Routledge.

Jessup, H. and Rogerson, S. (1999), 'Postmodernism and the teaching and practice of interpersonal Skills', in Pease, B. and Fook, J. (eds), *Transforming Social Work Practice: Postmodern Critical Perspectives.* London: Routledge.

Sakamoto, I. and O.Pitner, R. (2005), *Use of Critical Consciousness in Anti-Oppressive Social Work Practice: Disentangling Power Dynamics and Structural Levels.* British Journal of Social Work, Vol 35, pp. 435-452.

Stepney, P. (2006), *Mission Impossible: Critical Practice in Social Work.* The British Journal of Social Work, 36 (8) pp. 1289-1307.

Welsh Assembly Government , (2008) *Strategy for Older People in Wales 2008 – 2013,* Welsh Assembly Government, Cardiff.

Welsh Government (2010a) Proposed Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure, Welsh Government, Cardiff.

Welsh Government (2010b) Children and Families (Wales) Measure, Welsh Government, Cardiff.

Welsh Government (2010c) Carer Strategies (Wales) Measure, Welsh Government, Cardiff.