Module Code:	SOC542

Module Title:	**Research Methods (L5)**

Level:	5	**Credit Value:**	20

Cost Centre(s):	GAPL	JACS3 **code**: HECoS **code:**	C831 100959

Faculty:	Social & Life Sciences	**Module Leader:**	Sue Horder

Scheduled learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Guided independent study	170 hrs
Placement	hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered (not including exit awards)	Core	Option
BA (Hons) Public Services Leadership	✓	☐

Pre-requisites

Module Aims
This module aims to develop your knowledge and understanding of research methods. The module will explore qualitative and quantitative methods and techniques, instrument design, data collection and analysis. The module aims to give you opportunities design your own piece of research from initial research question to research design, data collection (including designing instruments) and data analysis techniques and methods.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

KS1	Written, oral and media communication skills
KS2	Leadership, team working and networking skills
KS3	Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
KS4	Information technology skills and digital literacy
KS5	Information management skills
KS6	Research skills
KS7	Intercultural and sustainability skills
KS8	Career management skills
KS9	Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
KS10	Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Justify a topic for a small-scale research project relating to a specific research problem.	K1	K5
		K6	
2	Review a range of literature and peer-reviewed research relating to the chosen topic.	K4	K5
		K6	
3	Review, critically the advantages and disadvantages of various approaches to research design, data collection tools and the philosophies which underpin such approaches.	K1	K3
		K6	K7
4	Identify how the data collected may be analysed and ethical issues considered.	K1	K4
		K5	K6
		K10	

Transferable skills and other attributes
• Research skills • Independent work • Self-management • Independent thinking

• Time management

Derogations

None

Assessment:

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Assessment One: Research proposal

Present a research proposal which could lead to a small and realistic research study relating to a specific research problem. The proposal should include the following:
- Rationale for carrying out the study
- Research question(s) or hypothesis
- Brief literature review
- Proposed methods, including the underpinning philosophy for the research design
- An evaluation of at least two primary research tools
- Review of how data may be analysed
- A critical discussion of any ethical issues to be considered

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1-4	Research Proposal	100%		3,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

A variety of learning and teaching strategies will be used, including lectures and workshops, observation, group and individual tutorials, directed study tasks (may be individual or collaborative group tasks).

Syllabus outline:

- Interpretivist and Positivist research paradigms (i.e. qualitative and quantitative research)
- Research methodologies
- The advantages and disadvantages of different data collection instruments
- Values and ethics in research
- Ensuring validity and reliability in research – piloting research methods
- Choosing sample survey populations
- Constraints in survey design
- Basic statistical procedures and SPSS
- Data presentation

- Data analysis

Indicative Bibliography:

Essential reading

Bell, J. and Water, S. (2014). *Doing Your Research Project: a guide for first time researchers.* Sixth Edition. Maidenhead: Open University Press (Available on-line through Dawson Books – WGU Resource Finder)

Denscombe, M. (2014). *The Good research Guide: For small-scale social research projects.* Fifth Edition. Maidenhead: Open University Press (Available on-line through Dawson Books – WGU Resource Finder)

Other indicative reading

Bryman, A. (2016). *Social research Methods.* Fifth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Available in WGU library)

Cohen, L., Manion, L. and Morrison, K. (2007). *Research methods in Education.* Sixth Edition. Abingdon: Routledge (Available on-line through Dawson Books – WGU Resource Finder)