

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	SOC720
Module Title	Advanced Research Methods
Level	7
Credit value	30
Faculty	Faculty of Social and Life Sciences (FSLs)
HECoS Code	100484
Cost Code	GACJ/GAYC
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MA Criminology and Criminal Justice	Core
MA Youth and Community Work (JNC)	Core
PG Dip Youth and Community Work (JNC)	Core
MA Youth and Community Studies (Advanced Practice)	Core
MSc Policing	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	30 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	270 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	300 hrs

Module aims

To develop advanced understanding of research paradigms and how they might be applied in social science research.

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Identify the ontological and epistemological foundations of positivist; post-positivist; critical and constructivist research
2	Differentiate between approaches to sampling
3	Identify approaches to addressing ethical issues in research
4	Articulate an understanding of how research data may be analysed

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 1: Students to prepare a 4,000-word proposal for undertaking research that gathers primary data

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1-4	Written Assignment	4,000 words	100%	N/A

Derogations

None

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy is grounded in the University's commitment to an Active Learning Framework (ALF) so that learning will be both accessible and active and include synchronous and asynchronous elements. Online Panopto based lectures are supplemented by interactive elements and students will be expected to complete activities such as watching videos; undertaking Other Indicative Reading; completing quizzes and posting responses to a-synchronous debate. These activities are the subject of formative feedback by the module tutor. Regular real time online sessions ensure students also have access to staff who thereby provide presence, challenge and support for student throughout the module.

Welsh Elements

Students who are Welsh speaking can participate in group learning activities together in a class. Students can submit assignments in Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- Research paradigms
- Ontology
- Epistemology
- Axiology/Theory
- Positivism/Scientific method
- Post positivism- quasi scientific and qualitative methods
- Critical theory: feminism, Marxism, queer theory, post-colonialism
- Structuralism/structural linguistics
- Constructivist/ constructionism
- Post-structuralism in linguistics
- Population and approaches to sampling
- Respondent recruitment
- Morals and ethics
- Deontology/teleology
- Thematic analysis
- Discourse analysis
- Statistical analysis

Indicative Bibliography

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

Essential Reads:

- Guba, E.G. and Lincoln, Y.S. (1994) Competing paradigms in qualitative research. *Handbook of qualitative research*, 2(163-194) London: Sage
- Creswell, J. W and Creswell, J.D (2022) *Research design, Qualitative, Quantitative and mixed methods approaches*. 6th edition. Thousand oaks, CA: Sage Publications

Recommended reading:

- Denzin & Lincoln (2018) – *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*
- Clark, T., Foster, L., Sloan, L. and Bryman, A. (2021) *Bryman's Social Research Methods*. 6th edn. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Other indicative reading:

Positivism:

- Stockemer, D. and Bordeleau, J.-N. (2023) *Quantitative methods for the social sciences: a practical introduction with examples in R*. 2nd edn. Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing

Postpositivism:

- Prasad, P. (2018) *Crafting qualitative research: beyond positivist traditions*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Critical theory

- Creswell, J.W. and Poth, C.N. (2018) *Qualitative inquiry and research design: choosing among five approaches*. 4th edn. London: Sage

Constructivism

- Wetherell, M. (2001) *Themes in discourse research: theory and practice*. Buckingham: Open University Press.

MA Youth and Community Work (JNC):

This module links to the following areas of the [Youth Work National Occupational Standards \(2019\)](#):

- YW03 Comply with the legal, regulator and ethical requirements when carrying out youth work
- YW09 Support young people to become responsible citizens through active involvement with youth work
- YW10 Advocate with and on behalf of young people so that their interests are represented
- YW13 Access information with and for young people to inform decision making
- YW14 Assist young people to recognise, realise and defend their rights
- YW20 Determine, evaluate and prioritise your organisation's objectives for youth work in the community
- YW21 Secure funding and resources for youth work
- YW22 Influence and develop youth work strategy
- YW23 Engage young people in the strategic development of youth work
- YW24 Monitor and evaluate the impact of youth work strategy and delivery
- Signpost 32 Quality assure work in your team
- Signpost 40 Promote the needs, rights and interests of individuals and groups in the community

Administrative Information

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Initial approval date	May 2021
With effect from date	September 2021
Date and details of revision	26.02.2025: AM0 modification to update Indicative Bibliography. MSc Policing added to Programme Titles following validation. 12.05.2025: Approved to be a shared module for MA/PG Dip Youth and Community programmes.
Version number	03

