

Prifysgol Wreccsam Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	SWK419
Module Title	Life Course Perspectives
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

This module aims to provide an integrated approach to theorising the life course. Students will develop understanding about how to bring together social/cultural contexts and the inner life of individual experience. Therefore, students are enabled to develop understanding of human growth through the life course by introducing and contextualising main theoretical models. This will be achieved by interrogating the interconnectedness between internal, intimate concerns of individual lives and the external social, economic and political order that largely concerns, influences and shapes people's lives.

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

1	Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of a life course perspective in relation to human growth and development
2	Recognise and evaluate the impact of neglect, abuse, trauma and loss on development, alongside life transitions and resilience
3	Apply a life course perspective to social work practice including value-based interventions focused on outcomes of wellbeing

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.

Written Assignment: 1,500 words

Apply a life course perspective to a given case study. How might this understanding influence social work practice focussed on outcomes of well-being.

The assessment strategy is designed to integrate theory and practice through a Case Study: Students will be required to analyse a case study demonstrating their understanding by addressing learning outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

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

Students will engage in weekly two-hour learning sessions. In line with the active learning framework (ALF) there will be a variety of teaching and learning approaches employed each week. Learning content will cover theory, research and encourage critical reflection. This means that as well as lectures and interactive tasks, each session will be a 'window' onto the much fuller information and learning available to students through Resource Finder, and other sources of information. Session can also include the involvement of practitioners and Outside In members. Tutorials are available at various times and particularly prior to the assessment submission date.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Introduction to key questions - What makes us human? How are people occupied and engaged with the world? How is it that some people do well in the world, and some don't?

Introduction to key concepts of a life course perspective and their relationship to how social workers intervene in the lives of individuals.

A biographical approach to understanding life course development; The importance of listening to the narrative stories of individuals and their constructions of their own life stories.

Psychosocial theory and themes including well-being, resilience and vulnerability;

Understanding human development across the life course: Attachment, separation, loss and change; Psychosocial thinking about families and life transition from birth, childhood, adolescence, becoming an adult, parent, grandparent, including themes of culture and identity.

Using life course development knowledge in social work practice: Attachment and trauma informed approaches; Social work values, human rights and strength-based approaches to intervening.

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

Walker, J. and Horner, N. (2020), *Social work and human development*. 6th ed. Exeter: Learning Matters.

Other indicative reading

Cairns, K. and Cairns, B. (2016), *Attachment, trauma and resilience: therapeutic caring for children*. London: Coram BAAF.

Green, L. (2017), *Understanding the Life Course: Sociological and psychological perspectives*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Livingston, W., Redcliffe, J., Quinn Aziz, A. (eds.) (2023), *Social Work in Wales*. Bristol: Policy Press.

Sissay, L. (2020), *My name is why*. Edinburgh Canongate.

Sudbery, J. (2018), *Human Growth and Development: An introduction for social workers*. 2nd ed. Abingdon: Routledge.

Thompson, N. and Cox, G. R. (eds.) (2019), *Promoting resilience: Responding to adversity, vulnerability, and loss*. London: Routledge.

Treisman, K. (2016), *Working with relational and developmental trauma in children and adolescents*. 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
Confidence

Practical Skillsets

Organisation
Communication