Prifysgol **Wrecsam**
Wrexham University

Module specification

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Module Code	YCW713
Module Title	Theorising Youth and Community Work
Level	7
Credit value	30
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	100466
Cost Code	GAYC
Pre-requisite module	None

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
MA Youth and Community Work (JNC)	Core
PGDip Youth and Community Work (JNC)	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	6 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	**36** hrs
Placement hours	180 hrs
Guided independent study hours	84 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	300 hrs

Module aims

This module will provide the opportunity to critically analyse core theories that inform youth and community work practice, and how social and political factors impact on work with young people and communities. It will be an opportunity to critically examine how these combine to shape professional identity and undertake 180 hours of placement activity.

Module Learning Outcomes

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

1	Critically apply key theoretical concepts relating to youth and community work practice
2	Explore the role of critically reflective practice in developing professional identity and youth and community work practice
3	Provide a critical appraisal of the core skills, competencies and standards required for professional youth and community work
4	Plan, deliver and critically evaluate educational activities in youth and community work settings in line with the pedagogical theories of informal education

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:

Attendance – students must maintain attendance of 80% to meet the requirements of the professional qualification

Assessment 2:

A Pass/Refer portfolio on the student's placement experience that leads to a critical appraisal of the core skills, competencies and standards required for professional youth and community work. The portfolio will include:
- Personal statement
- National Occupational Standards Checklist
- Professional Development Plan
- Placement timesheets, and supervisors report

Assessment 3:

An individual presentation lasting 20 minutes that demonstrates how the student has planned, delivered and critically evaluated educational activities in youth and community work settings in line with key pedagogical theories.

Assessment 4:

Reflective Log to include
- Reflective practice statement critically exploring the role of reflective practice in developing professional identity and youth and community work practice (1000 words)
- 3 x reflective journals on critical incidents whilst on placement critically applying key theories relating to youth and community work practice (2,500 words)

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1		Attendance		Pass/Refer	N/A

2	3	Portfolio	2000	Pass/Refer	N/A
3	4	Presentation	20 mins	40%	N/A
4	1, 2	Written Assignment	3,500 words	60%	N/A

Derogations
None

Learning and Teaching Strategies
A variety of teaching and learning activities will be employed on this module, predominantly those that emphasises interactive learning and student participation. These will include practical classes and workshops; case studies and problem-based learning activities, class and small-group discussion, simulation and group work.

This module will adopt a Hy-Flex approach to teaching and learning, in line with the Active Learning Framework. This means that students can join the classroom in person or join synchronously online to engage in the learning activities. Sessions will also be recorded for students to engage with alongside asynchronous online learning activities to scaffold the learning from the module.

Welsh Elements
This module will be bi-lingual in that key resources such as placement paperwork and handbooks will be available in Welsh and English.

The placement portfolio will be made available in Welsh.

Students who wish to undertake their placement hours within a Welsh speaking organisation will be supported to do so, and where possible supported by a Welsh speaking supervisor.

Indicative Syllabus Outline
- Being Critical
- What is youth and community work?
- The History of Youth Work
- Critical evaluation of informal education
- Critical reflection and the practitioner
- Approaches to pedagogy
- Contextualising policy and practice
- Group work theory and association
- The power of conversation
- Enabling effective participation
- Promoting genuine empowerment
- Social justice and social change
- Youth work ethics

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

Essential Reads

Thompson, N. (2017), *Theorising Practice* (2nd ed.). London: Bloomsbury Press.

Alldred, P., Cullen, F., Edwards, K. and Fusco, D. (eds.) (2018), *The SAGE Handbook of Youth Work Practice.* London: SAGE.

Other indicative reading

Bassot, B. (2023), *The Reflective Practice Guide;* an interdisciplinary approach to critical reflection. London: Routledge.

Bright, G. and Pugh, C. (eds.) (2019), *Youth Work; Global Futures.* Boston: Brill.

Cooper, T., Corney, T., Tierney, H., Gorman, J., and Sutcliffe, J. (2024), 'Talking about relational youth work: why language matters'. *Journal of Youth Studies*, pp. 1–18. https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2023.2298327

Corney, T., Cooper, T., Shier, H., and Williamson, H. (2022), 'Youth participation: Adultism, human rights and professional youth work'. *Children & Society*, Vol. 36, pp. 677–690.

Stepney, P. and Thompson, N. (2020) 'Isn't It Time to Start "Theorising Practice" Rather than Trying to "Apply Theory to Practice"?: Reconsidering our Approach to the Relationship between Theory and Practice', *Practice*, Vol. 33, No. 2, pp. 149–163.

Thompson, S. and Thompson, N. (2023), *The Critically Reflective Practitioner.* London: Bloomsbury Press.

Williams, S. and Conroy, D. (eds.) (2022), *A Student's Guide to Placements in Health and Social Care Settings; from theory to practice.* St Albans: Critical Publishing.

Wood, J., Westwood, S., and Thompson, G. (2015), *Youth Work: Preparation for Practice*. London: Routledge.

MA Youth and Community Work (JNC):

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

- YW01 Initiate, build and maintain relationships with young people
- YW02 Assist young people to learn and engage with the youth work process
- YW03 Comply with legal, regulatory and ethical requirements when carrying out youth work
- YW04 Develop and maintain productive working relationships in collaboration with colleagues, agencies and stakeholders for youth work
- YW05 Enable young people to identify, reflect and use their learning to enhance their future development
- YW07 Apply youth work values and principles in group work
- YW10 Advocate with and on behalf of young people so that their interests are represented
- YW11 Plan, prepare and facilitate learning activities with young people

- YW12 Manage resources with young people for youth work activities
- YW13 Access information with and for young people to inform decision making
- YW25 Work as an effective and critically reflective youth work practitioner
- Signpost 29 Develop your knowledge, skills and competence
- Signpost 35 Make sure your own actions reduce risks to health and safety
- Signpost 36 Provide healthy, safe, secure and productive working environments and practices
- Signpost 37 Work with the tensions inherent in community development practice
- Signpost 38 Support inclusive and collective working
- Signpost 39 Relate to different communities
- Signpost 40 Promote the needs, rights and interests of individuals and groups in the community

Administrative Information

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Initial approval date	10/12/2018
With effect from date	23/09/2019
Date and details of revision	12/05/2025 – updated and reapproved in revalidation.
Version number	2