

Module specification

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Module code	HLT624
Module title	Wicked Problems and Emerging Threats in Public Health
Level	6
Credit value	20
Faculty	SLS
Module Leader	Dr Sharon Wheeler
HECoS Code	100473
Cost Code	GAHW

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
BSc(Hons) Public Health and Wellbeing	Core

Pre-requisites

None.

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	24 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	24 hrs
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	176 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

For office use only	
Initial approval date	6 th December 2021
With effect from date	September 2022
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

Module aims

This module will explore ‘wicked problems’ in public health, which are those involving complex interdependencies that are seemingly too difficult to solve, such as health inequalities and climate change. It will consider the role of theory in understanding the problems and discuss possible strategies to tackle them.

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

1	Critically discuss what ‘wicked’ problems are and what makes them ‘wicked’, and identify examples of such problems in the field of public health.
2	Critically explain selected wicked public health problems and analyse the complex interdependencies involved.
3	Critically appraise and discuss the role of theory in making sense of wicked public health problems.
4	Propose strategies for tackling wicked public health problems.

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.

Students will be required to participate in three in-class discussions (45 minutes in duration) over the course of the semester. A wicked public health problem will be set for each discussion, and students will be expected to present their views regarding the nature of the problem and how it could be tackled. The views presented by students should be based upon having engaged with appropriate theory and evidence and reflected deeply upon the problem.

Each of the discussions will be mediated by a module tutor and audio / video recorded. Formative feedback will be provided to students following the first and second discussions. A mark reflecting students’ learning against the module learning outcomes will be awarded following the final discussion, along with summative feedback.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)
1	1, 2, 3, 4	Oral Assessment	100%

Derogations

None.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

The learning and teaching strategy for this module follows WGU's Active Learning Framework. Students are required to attend 'synchronous' workshops that will include the delivery of module content alongside individual and group discussions and tasks. They are also required to complete 'asynchronous' directed study tasks provided on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), such as watching recorded lectures, engaging with discussion forums, and undertaking quizzes, individual and group tasks, key readings and reflective activities.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

- What 'wicked' problems are and what makes them 'wicked'
- Theoretical perspectives for wicked problems
- Wicked problems:
 - e.g. Health inequalities
 - e.g. Planetary health
 - e.g. Pandemics
- Strategies: personal responsibility, compassion and ethical conduct
- Healthy public policy
- The role of international bodies (e.g. UN)

Indicative Bibliography:

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

Essential Reads

Thomas, W., Hujala, A., Laulainen, S. and Murray, R. (eds.) (2019), *The Management of Wicked Problems in Health and Social Care*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Other indicative reading

Bentley, J. and Toth, M. (2020), *Exploring Wicked Problems: What They Are and Why They Are Important*. Bloomington: Archway Publishing.

Ferlie, E., Fitzgerald, L., McGirven, G., Dopson, S. and Bennett, C. (2013), *Making Wicked Problems Governable?: The Case of Managed Networks in Health Care*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Incropera, F. (2015), *Climate Change: A Wicked Problem*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Jansson, B. (2018), *Reducing Inequality: Addressing the Wicked Problems Across Professions and Disciplines*. Cognella Academic Publishing.

Employability skills – the Glyndŵr Graduate

Each module and programme is designed to cover core Glyndŵr Graduate Attributes with the aim that each Graduate will leave Glyndŵr 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
Enterprising
Creative
Ethical

Key Attitudes

Commitment
Curiosity
Resilience
Confidence
Adaptability

Practical Skillsets

Organisation
Leadership and Team working
Critical Thinking
Emotional Intelligence
Communication