

## Module specification

When printed this becomes an uncontrolled document. Please access the **Module Directory** for the most up to date version by clicking on the following link: [Module directory](#)

Module Code	HLT712
Module Title	Contemporary Issues and New Directions in Public Health
Level	7
Credit value	30
Faculty	Social and Life Sciences
HECoS Code	101317
Cost Code	GAHW

## Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Is the module core or option for this programme
MSc Public Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing	Core
PgDip Public Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing	Core

## Pre-requisites

None

## Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 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
<b>Total active learning and teaching hours</b>	<b>30 hrs</b>
Placement / work based learning	0 hrs
Guided independent study	270 hrs
<b>Module duration (total hours)</b>	<b>300 hrs</b>

For office use only	
Initial approval date	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2024
With effect from date	Sept 2025
Date and details of revision	
Version number	1

## Module aims

---

Public health can be a dynamic and rewarding, but challenging sector. The issues arriving on the agenda of practitioners are continually evolving as physical, social, cultural, political, technical and economic environments change. It is vital that practitioners are equipped with the knowledge and tools to evaluate, in both breadth and depth, contemporary issues, as well as to spot opportunities to move the sector forward and threats that may limit this. This module will start 'at the beginning', asking the question, 'what *really* matters?'. It will then explore what is happening in the public health and healthcare sectors and the legislative and political contexts, before diving deeply into the epidemiology of contemporary public health issues. This will enable the critical consideration of future directions in public health.

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

---

1	Critically appraise the sector, legislative and political dynamics influencing public health.
2	Comprehensively discuss the epidemiology of contemporary public health issues.
3	Systematically identify threats to, and new directions in, public health.

## Assessment

---

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.

**Learners will be required to develop and deliver a 20-minute individual presentation, with 5 minutes for questions at the end, that considers contemporary issues and new directions in public health.**

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

## Derogations

---

None

## Learning and Teaching Strategies

---

Learners will be required to engage with the Active Learning Classroom (ALC) (approximately 1.5 hours), either by attending the session live, or watching the recording in their own time. Alongside this, both live and online learners will be required to undertake directed study tasks provided on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) (approximately 1.5 hours), which may include engaging with discussion forums, reading / watching material and answering questions, and reflective / creative activities. The remainder of the module hours should be dedicated by learners to developing and consolidating their knowledge and understanding through independent reading, as well as working on the assessment.

Support mechanisms in place for learners on this module include:



- Written and verbal assessment guidance.
- Access to tutorials with the Module Leader.
- Access to Learning Skills and / or Inclusion Teams.
- Access to Student and Campus Life services.

## Indicative Syllabus Outline

---

- What matters?
- Health, mental health, wellbeing and happiness
- Public health and healthcare sectors
- Policy, legislation and politics
- Epidemiology
- Risk factors for, and social determinants of, health, mental health and wellbeing
- Contemporary issues in public health
- New directions in public health

## Indicative Bibliography:

---

### Essential Reads

Watson, K. (2023), *Essential Public Health: Theory and Practice*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### Other indicative reading

Eaton, W. and Fallin, D. eds. (2019), *Public Mental Health*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Jones, B., Norton, P. and Hertner, I. eds. (2021), *Politics UK*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Routledge.

Marmot, M. (2015), *The Health Gap: The Challenge of an Unequal World*. London: Bloomsbury.

Ratcliff, K. (2017), *The Social Determinants of Health: Looking Upstream*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Ricard, M. (2015), *Happiness: A Guide to Developing Life's Most Important Skill*. London: Atlantic Books.

Smith, S. (2023), *The Ontology of Well-Being in Social Policy and Welfare Practice*. Cham: Springer.