

Course Specification

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Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social, Historical and Political Studies		
Course Code(s):	SL013J01UV	Full-time	3 Years
	SL013J31UV	Part-time	6 Years
Course Title:	BA (Hons) Sociology and Social Policy		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Sociology and Social Policy Bachelor of Arts Sociology and Social Policy Diploma of Higher Education Sociology and Social Policy Certificate of Higher Education Sociology and Social Policy University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	21/Jun/2017		
Last Review:	2016/7		
Course Specification valid from:	2009/0		
Course Specification valid to:	2022/3		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Sam Pryke
Head of Department:	Dr Stephen Gregg

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

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240-280 UCAS points with a minimum of 180 points from at least 2 A levels.

BTEC QCF Extended Diploma grade MMM; BTEC QFC Diploma grade DD.

Access to HE Diploma.

English Language requirements are normally IELTS 6.0 equivalent with a minimum of 5.5 in each area (unless otherwise stated) or equivalent accepted qualification <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/international/international-academy/english-at-the-international-academy/language-entry-requirements/>

We accept the Wolverhampton English Proficiency Exam (WEPE), our own exam for candidates. Please see <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/international/international-academy/english-at-the-international-academy/english-language-pathway-courses/wolverhampton-english-proficiency-examination-we/>

If you do not have the level of English required, you can also do our Pre-sessional. See <https://www.wlv.ac.uk/international/international-academy/english-at-the-international-academy/english-language-pathway-courses/english-language-pre-sessional-courses/>

Distinctive Features of the Course:

- This is a dynamic programme which focusses on the relationship between social policy and society, making links between the personal and the social, allowing learners to draw on their own experience of the social world.
- This course develops students' knowledge and skills through theoretical and evidence-based practice, applying important sociological and policy tools to investigate contemporary topics, such as migration and poverty.
- The course considers how social processes impact differently on individuals and groups and how these differences impact on both society and the subsequent construction of policy.
- This course encourages community-based learning through advocacy and placements in not-for-profit agencies and organisations. The University of Wolverhampton are pioneers of accredited volunteering in the UK and these modules are embedded in the course as an accredited part of the student learning experience.
- Graduate employability is embedded throughout the degree programme at The University of Wolverhampton, developing students' expertise in a range of key employer-identified skills that prepare our students for the workforce of the future.
- The teaching team are all active researchers engaging in social research which strengthens the links between research and teaching, enhancing the learning environment.

Educational Aims of the Course:

The Sociology and Social Policy programme aims to critically examine the relationship between individuals and society, within the UK and beyond. Exploring how individuals and groups are enabled to participate in society – and the processes by which some groups and individuals are socially excluded - is critical to understanding the dynamics of the social world. Social movements such as Extinction Rebellion and Black Lives Matter illustrate how citizen involvement can be critical in bringing about policy – and societal - change. Nonetheless some 'voices' are more valued than others. Therefore the Sociology and Social Policy programme critically examines how social problems are identified, talked about and articulated, by politicians, by the media and by UK citizens, and how this is translated into social policy.

The UK welfare state is changing, with the increasing role for the voluntary and the private sectors. At the same time there is growing evidence that welfare services are failing to meet the needs of our citizens, particularly the most vulnerable in society. This is underpinning increasing levels of social inequality and exclusion in our society. Therefore, during your studies, you will encounter important concepts, theories and methods to enable you to develop a critical understanding of the range of institutional conditions, cultural processes and social relations that impact on social policy in areas such as housing, health and the environment.

The course will also focus on the interconnections between local, regional, national and global processes. These connections are particularly poignant in relation to the issue of sustainability. The uneven impact that globalisation and climate change are having on the poorest in the UK – and across the globe – is not only an environmental issue but one of social justice. The programme will critically examine how theories such as sustainable development and inclusive growth could lead to better outcomes for disadvantaged groups and individuals in the UK and across the globe.

In addition, this exciting joint programme will equip students with expertise in employer-identified skills for the workplace. These skills are embedded through the programme. At each level of study, students are given the opportunity to undertake advocacy or accredited voluntary work for, and with, not-for-profit agencies and organisations in the local community – an experience that embeds learning and further enhances opportunities for graduate employment.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00
2021/2	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2021/2	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12950.00
2021/2	H	Part Time	£3100.00
2022/3	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2022/3	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£13450.00
2022/3	H	Part Time	£3120.00
2023/4	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2023/4	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14450.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

January (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
Group 02 Min Value: 40 Max Value: 40				
4SA014	Advocacy in Action	20	SEM2	
4SA012	Living with Poverty	20	SEM2	
4SL012	Media, Culture and Society	20	SEM2	
4SL009	Introduction to Classical Social Theory	20	SEM2	Core

January (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4SA008	Social Policy Now	20	SEM1	Core
4SL005	The Sociological Imagination	20	SEM1	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

4SA015	Citizenship and Social Inequalities	20	SEM1	
4IR001	Introduction to International Relations	20	SEM1	

January (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5SL009	Research methods	20	SEM2	Core
5SA017	Community Engagement and Social Change	20	SEM2	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

5SL008	Volunteering in Action	20	SEM2	
5SL002	Contesting Gendered Differences and Sexualities	20	SEM2	
5CJ011	Environmental Crime	20	SEM2	

January (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5SA015	The Role of Community in Policymaking	20	SEM1	Core
5SL005	Issues and Debates in Sociological Thought	20	SEM1	Core

Group 05 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

5SL001	Racism, Diversity and Difference	20	SEM1	
5SA016	The Future of Work	20	SEM1	

January (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6SA011	Sustaining Welfare	20	SEM2	Core

Group 05 | Min Value: 40 | Max Value: 40

6SA012	Independent Project Social Policy	40	CRYRA	
6SL017	Independent Project in Sociology	40	CRYRA	

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SL016	Nations and Nationalism	20	SEM2	
6SL014	Body and Society	20	SEM2	

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

January (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6SA008	Social Policy of Work and Labour Markets	20	SEM2	Core

Group 05 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SL011	The Sociology of Migration	20	SEM2	
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Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SL003	Independent Project in Sociology	20	SEM2	
6SA004	Independent Project in Social Policy	20	SEM2	

January (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
Group 02 Min Value: 20 Max Value: 20				
6SL018	Connecting Sociologies Across the Globe	20	SEM1	
6SL011	The Sociology of Migration	20	SEM1	

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SA009	Responses to Social Inequalities	20	SEM1	
6SA010	International NGO's, Policymaking and Change	20	SEM1	

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

January (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6SA003	Approaches to Poverty and Social Exclusion	20	SEM1	Core
6SL012	Qualitative Research Methods	20	SEM1	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SA005	Policy-Making in Britain	20	SEM1	
6SL013	The Global World	20	SEM1	
6SL014	Body and Society	20	SEM1	

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
Group 02 Min Value: 40 Max Value: 40				
4SA014	Advocacy in Action	20	SEM2	
4SA012	Living with Poverty	20	SEM2	
4SL012	Media, Culture and Society	20	SEM2	
4SA008	Social Policy Now	20	SEM1	Core
4SL005	The Sociological Imagination	20	SEM1	Core
4SL009	Introduction to Classical Social Theory	20	SEM2	Core
Group 01 Min Value: 20 Max Value: 20				
4SA015	Citizenship and Social Inequalities	20	SEM1	
4IR001	Introduction to International Relations	20	SEM1	

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5SA015	The Role of Community in Policymaking	20	SEM1	Core
5SL005	Issues and Debates in Sociological Thought	20	SEM1	Core
5SL009	Research methods	20	SEM2	Core
5SA017	Community Engagement and Social Change	20	SEM2	Core

Group 05 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

5SA016	The Future of Work	20	SEM1	
5SL001	Racism, Diversity and Difference	20	SEM1	

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

5SL002	Contesting Gendered Differences and Sexualities	20	SEM2	
5SL008	Volunteering in Action	20	SEM2	
5CJ009	Victims and Offenders	20	SEM2	

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6SA011	Sustaining Welfare	20	SEM2	Core

Group 05 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SL018	Connecting Sociologies Across the Globe	20	SEM1	
6SL011	The Sociology of Migration	20	SEM1	

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SA009	Responses to Social Inequalities	20	SEM1	
6SA010	International NGO's, Policymaking and Change	20	SEM1	

Group 02 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SL016	Nations and Nationalism	20	SEM2	
6SL014	Body and Society	20	SEM2	

Group 01 | Min Value: 40 | Max Value: 40

6SA012	Independent Project Social Policy	40	YEAR	
6SL017	Independent Project in Sociology	40	YEAR	

Continuing students will follow the programme indicated below:

September (Full-time)

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6SA003	Approaches to Poverty and Social Exclusion	20	SEM1	Core
6SL012	Qualitative Research Methods	20	SEM1	Core
6SA008	Social Policy of Work and Labour Markets	20	SEM2	Core

Group 05 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SL011	The Sociology of Migration	20	SEM2	
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Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SA005	Policy-Making in Britain	20	SEM1	
6SL013	The Global World	20	SEM1	
6SL014	Body and Society	20	SEM1	

Group 02 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6SL003	Independent Project in Sociology	20	SEM2	
6SA004	Independent Project in Social Policy	20	SEM2	

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

None.

Reference Points:

[UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)

[Qualifications and Credit Frameworks](#)

[University Policies and Regulations](#)

Equality Act (2010)

QAA Quality Benchmark Statement Social Policy 2019

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONS01 1) Critically understand a range of theoretical and methodological approaches in Social Policy and Sociology and comprehend the distinctive character of the policy environment.	
BHONS02 2) Critically review, synthesise, analyse and evaluate a wide range of appropriate evidence in relation to a variety of social theories, and to mobilise a reasoned, policy informed argument.	
BHONS03 3) Critically evaluate the distinctiveness of quantitative and qualitative research and communicate findings to a range of audiences using appropriate technologies in digitally literate ways.	
BHONS04 4) Demonstrate a wide range of conceptual and practical skills that make positive contributions to the economic, social and cultural life of communities and are commensurate with graduate employability.	
BHONS05 5) Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of equality, diversity and inclusivity in your outlook towards, and relationships with, others.	
BHONS01 6) Justify the importance of individual, collective and global responsibility for sustainability.	
BHONS02 7) Work independently by directing, managing and reflecting upon your learning activities, and engaging cooperatively with others in the planning, preparation and execution of independent research.	
BHONSN01 1) Critically understand a range of theoretical and methodological approaches in Social Policy and Sociology and comprehend the distinctive character of the policy environment.	
BHONSN02 2) Critically review, synthesise, analyse and evaluate a wide range of appropriate evidence in relation to a variety of social theories, and to mobilise a reasoned, policy informed argument.	
BHONSN03 3) Critically evaluate the distinctiveness of quantitative and qualitative research communicate findings to a range of audiences using appropriate technologies in digitally literate ways.	
BHONSN04 4) Demonstrate a wide range of conceptual and practical skills that make positive contributions to the economic, social and cultural life of communities and are commensurate with graduate employability.	
BHONSN05 5) Analyse the importance of equality, diversity and inclusivity in your outlook towards, and relationships with, others.	
BHONSN06 6) Justify the importance of individual, collective	

and global responsibility for sustainability . 7) Work independently by directing, managing and reflecting upon your learning activities, and engaging cooperatively with others in the planning, preparation and execution of independent research .

Learning Outcomes

Modules

CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with Social Policy, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study

CERTHE02 Demonstrate an ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of Social Policy and Social Change

CERTHE03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to Social Policy and Social change

CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments

CERTHE05 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility

DIPHE01 Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of Social Policy, and of the way in which those principles have developed with an understanding of the limits of your knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.

DIPHE02 Demonstrate the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles an external organisation working to solve social problems

DIPHE03 Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in Social Policy, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving social problems in the policymaking environment and how that relates to the dynamics of social change

DIPHE04 Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis

DIPHE05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively

DIPHE06 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment, requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making and undertake further training, developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

Teaching Activities

Staff at the University of Wolverhampton are at the forefront of andragogic practice and have developed expertise in Blended and flipped learning techniques. Therefore teaching activities will include:

Lectures

Seminars

Workshops

Multimedia resources

Peer based learning

Independent and guided study

Collaborative and individual online activities

Community-based learning through advocacy activities, volunteering, and work placements

Assessment Methods

The Sociology and Social Policy team are part of a Student Union project, drawing upon University of Leicester's Inclusivity Toolkit, aimed reducing the attainment gap through a more structured approach to assessment unpacking and assignment feedback.

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support, test and embed your learning and progress. The modes of assessment are aimed at developing your knowledge of social policy and how that links to social change. It will also focus on skills for the workplace, as identified by local employers in our employability forum, such as communication skills, team-working and research skills. Your course will may include a variety of assessment activities which includes, but is not limited to:

Digital media creation

Oral, video and poster presentations – individually and as a group

Essays

Case Studies

Research activities

Applied research

Reports

Portfolios

Blogs

Putting on an event

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, you are expected to write an independent project, which can be desk-based, primary or applied (working with an external not for profit organisation) research.

Assessment feedback will be provided through the VLE and students will also be offered one to one tutorials.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and

into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

General University support:

University Learning Centres are the key source of academic information for students. Learning Centres provide physical library resources (books, journal, DVDs etc.) and offer a range of study areas to allow students to study in the environment that suit them best: Social areas, quiet and silent areas. Learning Centres also provide access to wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, e-Journals and subject databases. Learning Centres also provide students with academic skills support via the Skills for Learning programme. Students on campus can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help on a range of skills such as academic writing and referencing. Students can access a range of online skills material at:

www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills.

The University also has a host of other services to support you, please take a look at the Student Support website: www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/student-support/. If you have any questions, need help or advice then ASK@WLV is there for you: www.wlv.ac.uk/current-students/askwlv/.

Course Specific Support

Students are allocated an academic coach in their first year to support their transition to higher education and thereafter will be allocated a personal tutor that will support with academic and pastoral enquiries. Students are supported in their academic achievement with one-to-one and group tutorials and through assessment unpacking sessions and detailed feedback on their work, including audio-visual feedback.

Employability in the Curriculum:

As a result of engagement with employers, key employability skills and attributes identified by employers have been embedded throughout the Sociology and Social Policy programme at The University of Wolverhampton. This includes hard skills, such as knowledge about public administration, the ability to read and interpret data and digital literacy, and soft skills such as empathy, enthusiasm and being able to engage and communicate with a range of disadvantaged individuals and groups. These skills will be embedded in the variety of assessment offered on the course, such writing BLOGS, designing posters, designing an event and creating podcasts. In addition, students will encounter a range of worldviews, through visits, volunteering activities and guest speakers from not-for-profit organisations. For example, the core module, Advocacy in Action, will require students to engage with a real social problem, working with local not-for-profit organisation to co-design an event to raise awareness and propose solutions for that social problems. Accredited volunteering opportunities will enable students to gain skills for the workplace experience as well as having the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice.

The Sociology and Social Change degree will equip graduates with the skills, knowledge and competencies to work in a broad range of public, voluntary and private organisations. Graduates have been employed in a range of vocations including as neighbourhood development officers, volunteer management, family support workers, social care workers, housing officers, social inclusion workers and care managers. In addition graduates are well equipped to pursue a post-graduate professional qualification in Education or Social Work or to continue their academic studies through a Masters Course.



THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY