



## MODULE SPECIFICATION

<b>Academic Year (student cohort covered by specification)</b>	2023-24
<b>Module Code</b>	1104
<b>Module Title</b>	Principles of Social Research
<b>Module Organiser(s)</b>	Ford Hickson and Ruth Ponsford
<b>Faculty</b>	Public Health & Policy
<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7
<b>Credit Value</b>	<b>CATS:</b> 10 <b>ECTS:</b> 5
<b>HECoS Code</b>	100962 : 101307
<b>Term of Delivery</b>	Term 1
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	For 2023-24 this module will be delivered by predominantly face-to-face teaching modes.  Where specific teaching methods (lectures, seminars, discussion groups) are noted in this module specification these will be delivered by predominantly face-to-face sessions. There will be a combination of live and interactive activities (synchronous learning) as well as recorded or self-directed study (asynchronous learning).
<b>Mode of Study</b>	Full-time
<b>Language of Study</b>	English
<b>Pre-Requisites</b>	None
<b>Accreditation by Professional Statutory and Regulatory Body</b>	None
<b>Module Cap (indicative number of students)</b>	n/a
<b>Target Audience</b>	Level 7 learners intending to read, use and be involved in the production of both quantitative and qualitative social research. This module is good preparation for Health Care Evaluation (1400), Qualitative Methodologies (1700), Medical Anthropology and Public Health (1802), Sociological Approaches to Health (1803), and History & Health (1401).
<b>Module Description</b>	Ten weekly units each consisting of: a preparatory activity and/or assigned reading (approximately 3 hours); a whole-

	class live lecture and Q&A (1 hour); an interactive small-group seminar (1½ hours) .
<b>Duration</b>	10 weeks at 0.5 days per week
<b>Timetabling slot</b>	Term 1
<b>Last Revised (e.g. year changes approved)</b>	August 2023

<b>Programme(s)</b>	<b>Status</b>
This module is linked to the following programme(s)	
MSc Public Health (all streams)	Compulsory
MSc Demography & Health	Compulsory
MSc Reproductive & Sexual Health Research	Compulsory
MSc Public Health for Development	Compulsory

## Module Aim and Intended Learning Outcomes

<b>Overall aim of the module</b>
The overall module aim is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>introduce the basic principles of practice and theory in social research and to demonstrate their application to the empirical study of health.</li> </ul>

<b>Module Intended Learning Outcomes</b>
Upon successful completion of the module a student will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts in social research methodology</li> <li>Identify appropriate research designs for a range of research questions in health</li> <li>Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different research designs and data collection methods</li> <li>Critically evaluate published social research studies</li> <li>Demonstrate an understanding of how social research findings can be used in public health disciplines</li> </ol>

## Indicative Syllabus

<b>Session Content</b>
The module is expected to cover the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is social research?</li> <li>Social surveys</li> <li>Social experiments</li> <li>Generating and analysing qualitative data</li> <li>Observation and ethnography</li> <li>Documentary approaches</li> <li>Literature reviews and data synthesis</li> </ul>

# Teaching and Learning

## Notional Learning Hours

Type of Learning Time	Number of Hours	Expressed as Percentage (%)
Contact time	25	25%
Directed self-study	30	30%
Self-directed learning	15	15%
Assessment, review and revision	30	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100%</b>

Student contact time refers to the teacher-mediated time allocated to teaching, provision of guidance and feedback to students. This time includes activities that take place in face-to-face contexts such as lectures and seminars, as well as where seminar leaders are available for one-to-one discussions and interaction by email.

Directed self-study is where instruction is given as to what to study, or what activities to engage in.

Self-directed learning refers to students pursuing their individual interests using the module reading lists.

The division of notional learning hours listed above is indicative and is designed to inform students as to the relative split between interactive (online or on-campus) and self-directed study.

### Teaching and Learning Strategy

Each week students are directed to preparatory work which should be carried out before the lecture, this will include assigned reading/s and in some weeks a practical activity. The preparatory activities give a taste of observation, question design, interviewing and qualitative data analysis. Each lecture is approximately 45 minutes and are delivered by leading researchers in the Faculty of Public Health and Policy, followed by a 10-15 minutes question and answer session. Seminars provide space for discussion of the preparatory material, debriefing of the activities and processing of learning.

## Assessment

### Assessment Strategy

The assessment for this module has been designed to measure student learning against the module intended learning outcomes (ILOs) as listed above.

A formative assessment, carried out in small groups, is used in Week 5 to assess students' progress and to familiarise them with the assessment method. This does not count towards the final degree.

**For students registering in 2022-23, or thereafter:** The summative assessment of this module is by timed, open-book examination in Assessment week (Week 0) of Term 2. Students will respond to a single multi-part question within 1,000 words.

**For students registering prior to 2022-23:** The summative assessment for this module will be an open-book examination as part of summer written exams in June 2024.

The grade for this summative assessment(s) will go towards the overall award GPA.

### Summative Assessment for students registering in 2022-23, or thereafter

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Timed, open-book assessment	2 hours to answer 1 question within 1000 words maximum	100%	1 to 5

### Summative Assessment for students registering prior to 2022-23

Assessment Type	Assessment Length (i.e. Word Count, Length of presentation in minutes)	Weighting (%)	Intended Module Learning Outcomes Tested
Timed, open-book examination as part of summer written exam June 2023	1000 words	100%	1 to 8

### Resitting assessment

Resits will accord with the LSHTM's [Resits Policy](#)

The Resit assessment will be the same assessment type as the first attempt (see previous table).

## Resources

### Indicative reading list

- Durand and Chantler (2014) *Principles of Social Research, 2nd Edition*. Open University
- Clark T, Foster L, Sloan L and Bryman A (2021) *Bryman's Social Research Methods, 6th edition*. Oxford University Press.
- Seale C (2018) *Researching Society and Culture, 4th Edition*. SAGE Publications.

## Teaching for Disabilities and Learning Differences

The module-specific site on Moodle provides students with access to lecture outlines and copies of lecture slides prior to its delivery (in pdf format). All lectures are recorded as delivered and made available on Moodle as quickly as possible. All materials posted up on Moodle areas have been made accessible where possible.

The LSHTM Moodle has been made accessible to the widest possible audience, using a VLE that allows for up to 300% zoom, permits navigation via keyboard and use of speech recognition software, and that allows listening through a screen reader. All students have access to "SensusAccess" software which allows conversion of files into alternative formats.

For students who require learning or assessment adjustments and support this can be arranged through the Student Support Services – details and how to request support can be found on the [LSHTM Disability Support pages](#).