

Module Details	
Module Title	Dissertation
Module Code	SAC6015-D
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	40
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 6

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Project Supervision	12
Lectures	10
Independent Study	378

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Academic Year

Module Aims
<p>The Dissertation project offers sociology and criminology students the opportunity to focus for an extended period of time over 2 semesters upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Bradford-based social/crime issue</li> <li>- A policy/critical issue</li> <li>- A theoretical (sociological or criminological) problem</li> <li>- A social innovation with social or crime prevention value.</li> </ul> <p>The dissertation project allows students to deepen their knowledge on a social issue or sociological/criminological problem. This could be conceptualised in relation to regional/national issues of public importance and experiences with wider implications for policy and practice. Alternatively, students can produce a scholarly piece of work that critically debates social or criminological theory and its applications in the real world. The dissertation project allows students to produce academic work that is complete and systematic as they work through the literature review, research design, data collection and analysis whether this is primary, secondary, unobtrusive or library-based study.</p>

## Outline Syllabus

The Dissertation is a self-directed project aided by the allocation of an individual supervisor in the area of study chosen and a number of taught sessions. The main objectives of the taught sessions are as follows:

- To differentiate between empirical and purely literature-based projects
- To discuss the importance of ethics and ethical approval for empirical projects
- To outline the different structures or layouts for empirical and literature-based projects
- To discuss the need to define the topic of study in a sufficiently clear and focused way
- To discuss the need to situate the discussion within a broad and appropriate theoretical context
- To discuss the balance needed in the Dissertation between independent thought and discussion and reference to literature, supported by Harvard referencing
- To outline strategies for effectively managing the planning, research and writing stages of the project
- Outline the role of the supervisor.

## Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Create an in-depth knowledge and a systematic, academically informed understanding of a selected topic relevant to your degree.
02	Situate discussion of topic within a broad and appropriate theoretical context.
03	Identify, access and critically evaluate relevant data and literature in a systematic manner.
04	Plan, research, organise and write a clear, coherent and theoretically informed discussion of the selected topic.
05	Produce a detailed and realistic timetable covering the planning, research and writing stages of the project.
06	Enhance your written communication skills.

## Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Through a combination of interactive lectures, tutorials, workshops and library sessions, this module supports you in the inception, development and production of your dissertation. Taught sessions will outline the planning research and writing stages of the process, whilst interactions with supervisors will provide more specific guidance and support for students.

Through tutorial meetings with a dissertation supervisor, students will be given guidance on research approach, scope and the structure of their work as it starts and develops. Written feedback may be given on draft work (no more than 2000 words) by the dissertation supervisor.

## Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Dissertation or Project Report	Semester 2: up to 8,000 word dissertation (subject to be negotiated)	100%

## Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

*This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.*

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