

# SO944-60 Dissertation

**23/24**

**Department**

Sociology

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Anastasia Chamberlen

**Credit value**

60

**Module duration**

20 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

The dissertation module gives student the opportunity to complete an independent piece of research on a topic of their own choice with the support of their dissertation supervisor, plenary teaching, and other online resources. The aim is for students to creatively use the substantive and methodological training acquired in the earlier part of their course to critically analyze a research topic of sociological relevance.

### Module aims

The main aim of this module is to enable students to draw on their substantive and methodological training effectively in order to tackle a research topic of sociological relevance. The aim is for students to demonstrate understanding of and ability to integrate and synthesize conceptual and empirical knowledge to make an original contribution in the field of sociology.

### Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The module will cover key topics such as conducting literature reviews, writing and synthesizing results from an original research project, deciding on a research design for an original project, and

analyzing and interpreting research findings.

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- demonstrate advanced skills in formulating a research problem and developing an appropriate research design in order to operationalise the research.
- On completion of the module students will have gained practical experience in using sociological research methods to carry out a specific research project.
- On completion of this module students will be able to demonstrate critical skills in linking concepts and theories to the development of a research project.

## **Indicative reading list**

Bell, J. (2010) *Doing Your Research Project: A Guide for First-Time Researchers in Education and Social Science* (5th edn.), Milton Keynes: Open University Press.

Brett Davies, M. (2007) *Doing a Successful Research Project: using qualitative or quantitative methods*, Basingstoke: Paigrove Macmillan.

Bryman, A. (2012) *Social Research Methods* (4th edn.) Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gilbert, N. (ed.) (2008) *Researching Social Life* (3rd edn.) London: Sage.

May, T. (2003) *Social Research: Issues, methods and process* (3rd edn.) Buckingham: Open University Press.

Seale, C (2011) *Researching Society and Culture* (3rd edn.) London: Sage.

Walliman, N. (2011) *Your Research Project* (3rd edn.) London: Sage.

## **Research element**

For this module, students formulate a research question and answer it by employing appropriate social research techniques.

## **Subject specific skills**

- Advanced skills in formulating a research question and developing an appropriate research design to answer it.
- A comprehensive understanding of research techniques applicable to their substantive topic of choice
- Hands-on experience on conducting research e.g. interviews or analyzing large-scale data
- Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline

## **Transferable skills**

- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- exercise of initiative and personal responsibility

- decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
  - the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	4 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Project supervision	8 sessions of 30 minutes (1%)
Private study	592 hours (99%)
Total	600 hours

### Private study description

Reviewing and synthesizing substantive and empirical literature; planning an appropriate research design; preparing ethic forms for approval by supervisor; approaching participants; conducting interviews; research relevant archives and web resources for analysis, research and selecting appropriate statistical datasets; analysing interview data; analyzing large-scale data preparation of drafts for discussions with supervisor; writing the final draft of dissertation

### Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

### Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
Dissertation	100%	
A 15,000-word dissertation.		

### Feedback on assessment

Marking is via the Tabula system and students receive written, electronic feedback through the system.

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research
- Year 1 of TWSA-M9P7 Postgraduate Taught Gender and International Development
- TSOA-L3PW Postgraduate Taught Social Inequalities and Research Methods
  - Year 1 of L3PW Social Inequalities and Research Methods
  - Year 2 of L3PW Social Inequalities and Research Methods
- Year 1 of TSOA-L3PE Postgraduate Taught Social Research
- TSOA-L3P8 Postgraduate Taught Social and Political Thought
  - Year 1 of L3P8 Social and Political Thought
  - Year 1 of L3P8 Social and Political Thought
  - Year 1 of L3P8 Social and Political Thought
  - Year 1 of L3P8 Social and Political Thought
- TSOA-L3PD Postgraduate Taught Sociology
  - Year 1 of L3PD Sociology
  - Year 1 of L3PD Sociology

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of TSOA-L3PE Postgraduate Taught Social Research
- TSOA-L3P8 Postgraduate Taught Social and Political Thought
  - Year 1 of L3P8 Social and Political Thought
  - Year 1 of L3P8 Social and Political Thought

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 1 of TSOA-L3PD Postgraduate Taught Sociology