

## Liverpool John Moores University

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Title: PROBLEM SOLVING & EVALUATING PROJECTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **6004PS** (118547)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2012

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Stephen Moss	Y
Matt Jones	
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**Academic Level:** FHEQ6      **Credit Value:** 24.00      **Total Delivered Hours:** 28.00  
**Total Learning Hours:** 240      **Private Study:** 212

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	10.000
Online	7.000
Seminar	10.000
Tutorial	1.000

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Artefacts	Artefact		20.0	
Portfolio	Port		60.0	
Presentation	Group Pres		20.0	

### Aims

1. Exercise advanced reasoning, critical thinking and creative problem solving skills based on theoretical knowledge in public service settings
2. Critically examine different strategies in approaching evaluative practice
3. Effectively demonstrate critical and reflective approaches to systematic monitoring and evaluation

## Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically evaluate local issues using a Problem Solving approach.
- 2 Critical reflect on the importance of effectively embedding, monitoring and evaluation at project outset with regard to aims, objectives, outputs, outcomes and impact.
- 3 Demonstrate knowledge of contrasting methods of evaluation and monitoring and be able to present a rationale for selecting appropriate tools.
- 4 Demonstrate competence in searching for, identifying and applying relevant additional data sources.
- 5 Apply best practice and demonstrate reflexivity in bringing learning together, to report effectively on evaluation for a variety of audiences including internal use, funders and stakeholders.

## Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Problem Solving and Evaluation	3		
Evaluation and design Strategy	1	4	5
Group Presentation	2	5	

## Outline Syllabus

*Block 1 – Problem Solving - What is Problem Solving?*

*Block 2 –GIS - How can an understanding of GIS support Problem Solving?*

*Block 3 –Evaluation - What is evaluation? What is monitoring? Why evaluate?*

*Block 4 – Case Study*

## Learning Activities

The module will utilise Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) through blended learning that combines E-learning with more traditional teaching strategies. In addition students will be encouraged to take responsibility and monitor their own learning in this module through their Personal Development Plans.

Lectures and online learning materials will be used to provide an overview of each topic. The lectures will be delivered by the module team and, on occasion, guest

speakers from different relevant professional backgrounds, with particular expertise in aspects of the curriculum. Workshops will be used as a space for students to explore and discuss issues in small groups.

Electronic seminar and project work in small groups will be used to further explore the issues raised in lectures and through the students own reading.

Students will be expected to engage in self directed learning to develop their knowledge of the field.

Students will be allocated into problem solving - action learning sets to work on their group presentation.

## References

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Tilley, N
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2005
<b>Title</b>	Handbook of Crime Prevention and Community Safety
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Cullompton: Willan
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Newburn, T
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2008
<b>Title</b>	Handbook of Policing
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Cullompton: Willan
<b>ISBN</b>	

## Notes

This module is suitable for anyone who is new or relatively new to Problem Solving and Evaluation and Monitoring. It provides the practical help and support afforded by a training course to develop the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation practice. Good problem solving and evaluation practice can make the difference between project success or project failure. Developing and understanding the need for a systematic approach to problem solving, monitoring and evaluation enables informed decision-making and robust information exchanges with funders and stakeholders. The module also explores how projects can learn from evaluation and how evaluations can improve the report on evaluation findings in order to optimise the impact of evaluation.

