

Liverpool John Moores University

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Title: CRITICAL SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH PROPOSITION
AND DEVELOPMENT
Status: Definitive
Code: **7000MRESSS** (118748)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2016

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

Team	Leader
Kay Standing	Y
Katherine Harbord	
Helen Beckett Wilson	
Helen Churchill	
Janet Jamieson	
Joe Yates	
Sian Lincoln	
David Tyrer	
Liz James	
James Hollinshead	
Nickianne Moody	
Giles Barrett	
Sara Parker	
Joe Sim	
Bryan Scott	

Academic Level: FHEQ7 **Credit Value:** 60 **Total Delivered Hours:** 30

Total Learning Hours: 600 **Private Study:** 570

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Seminar	20
Tutorial	10

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Reflection	AS1	Literature review and annotated bibliography	25	
Essay	AS2	Methods review	25	
Essay	AS3	Research project/ dissertation plan and Reflective diary	50	

Aims

- *To develop independent and critical thinking in the application of theoretical concepts in critical social sciences;*
- *To examine methodologies and research resources appropriate to specific research tasks within the critical social sciences and to support participants in defining an appropriate area of research, through discussion, reflection and feedback.*
- *To support participants in developing the ability to present and defend research findings in an appropriate and scholarly manner, whether through oral presentation or in written work.*

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Display detailed knowledge of contemporary debates within critical theory and their appropriate and relevant application to their own research project in critical social science;
- 2 Critically evaluate current research and scholarship in their field to identify an appropriate methodological framework for their own research project which demonstrates direction, creativity and originality in tackling a research task.
- 3 Present work in an appropriate scholarly format.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Literature review	1	3	
Methods review	2	3	
Research project	1	2	3

Outline Syllabus

Outline Syllabus:

Component 1: Research in the Critical Social Sciences

- *Critical social science, power, discourse and knowledge production*
- *Epistemology and ontology*
- *Contemporary debates and critiques of methodological approaches*
- *Qualitative methodologies including hermeneutics and Participatory Action Research*
- *Situating the researcher, ethics, power and influence. Incorporation of the researcher's subjectivity in the research. Sensitivity to cultural, social and political contexts in which the research is taking place.*

Component 2: Advanced Critical Social Science Theory:

Students will identify three key theoretical perspectives in the critical social sciences which may be developed in their own research and through group seminars and one-to-one tutorial discussions, will work towards presenting a position paper.

Component 3: Literature Review

Students will compile a 'literature review' of ways in which the primary literature in their field can be defined and the relevance of existing secondary material in delineating their field of research in the critical social sciences. The first part of this element will be formatively assessed, through presentation of a seminar paper; the second through submission of a written review.

Component 4: Dissertation Planning:

Students will undertake reading and research intended to:

- *delimit the area of their research project;*
- *identify and define an appropriate body of sources and a methodology for researching them;*
- *evaluate and define a theoretical framework in which their research can be situated;*
- *Identify problematic issues on which they may need further guidance.*

Learning Activities

Seminars, one-to-one tutorials, group work, written work, guest lecturers, practical IT sessions

Notes

This module addresses the range of research skills, theories and methodologies necessary to the successful development of postgraduate level research projects in the Critical Social Sciences, including contextualisation and organisation; engaging with critical social science theory at an advanced level; identifying research questions and ethical implications, evaluating work in a specific area; and developing

learning processes which enable independent reflections on research.