

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: DISSERTATION  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **7004SWPGP** (100628)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2014

Owning School/Faculty: Nursing and Allied Health  
Teaching School/Faculty: Nursing and Allied Health

Team	Leader
Andrea Newman	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ7  
**Credit Value:** 60.00  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 25.00  
**Total Learning Hours:** 600  
**Private Study:** 575

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	10.000
Seminar	10.000
Tutorial	5.000

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	RPT	Research proposal, 1000 words	10.0	
Dissertation	DISS	Dissertation of 16000 words	90.0	

### Aims

1. To build upon the study of research and evaluation incorporated into several other modules in the MA in Social Work.
2. To ensure that students can design a proposal for a piece of research or evaluation relevant to social work practice or policy.
3. To prepare students for writing a Master's dissertation relevant to social work practice or policy, which may include a piece of empirical research based on a

*considered research methodology, or a critical evaluation of relevant literature.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of a range of research methods and how they may interconnect in relation to social work.
- 2 Design a research proposal that draws on social work related methods and shows awareness of current debates in social research methodology, particularly in relation to theoretical issues and social work values and ethics.
- 3 Carry out a piece of research, either empirical or literature based, related to social work practice.

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

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

proposal	1	2	3
dissertation	1	2	3

## **Outline Syllabus**

1. *Overview of research and debate in social work in relation to the nature and role of evaluation and research methods.*
2. *Review of some recent and classic social research methods and case studies of research related to social work, including practitioner research.*
3. *The problems and dilemmas of data collection. Analysing evidence. Using IT packages in relation to evidence.*
4. *Ethical issues and social work values in research: epistemology, moral and social theory.*
5. *Designing a research proposal for a Master's level dissertation: empirical and theoretical issues.*
6. *Writing up findings/constructing a dissertation. Presentation and dissemination of evidence.*

## **Learning Activities**

Lectures  
Seminars  
Independent research  
Private study

## **References**

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Denzin, N.K. & Lincoln, Y. (eds)

<b>Publishing Year</b>	1999
<b>Title</b>	Handbook of Qualitative Research
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Sage
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Hood, S., Mayall, B. & Oliver, S.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1999
<b>Title</b>	Critical Issues in social research
<b>Subtitle</b>	power and prejudice
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Open University Press
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Shaw, I. & Gould, N. (eds)
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2001
<b>Title</b>	Qualitative Research in Social Work
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Sage
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Thyer, B.A. (eds)
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2001
<b>Title</b>	The Handbook of Social Work Research Methods
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Sage
<b>ISBN</b>	

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## Notes

This module aims to develop and assess the knowledge of research methods, and understanding and transferable skills in the independent investigation, research, communication and evaluation of issues related to effective and ethical professional practice and policy. The module will provide feedback for students on the first taught part of the module dealing with research methods, and especially in relation to the development of the research proposal, thus preparing them for the dissertation.