

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Aim and Title	BA (Hons) Psychosocial Studies
Intermediate Awards Available	Cert. HE Dip. HE Ordinary Degree (BA)
Teaching Institution(s)	UEL
Alternative Teaching Institutions (for local arrangements see final section of this specification)	N/A
UEL Academic School	School of Education and Communities
UCAS Code	C890
Professional Body Accreditation	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark Statements	Sociology Psychology
Additional Versions of this Course	N/A
Date Specification Last Updated	June 2023

Course Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- Deepen your understandings of human identity and the social world. The most important point is to remember that a Psychosocial approach involves thinking about the way human beings influence their world, but also the way that the social and cultural realms make us who we are
- Explore the relationships between individuals and their society
- Encourage reflection, self-reflection and critical analysis
- Study a distinctive interdisciplinary curriculum, organised around key issues in contemporary society
- Acquire knowledge and skills applicable in a variety of career paths, including the develop skills and knowledge about working in communities in non-formal and social educational settings
- Develop an understanding of community cohesion, tensions and challenges
- Relate the academic study of anti-discriminatory practice, policy to professional practice
- welfare professions, research, marketing and the 'culture industries'

What you will learn:

Knowledge

- Describe and examine a range of key concepts including, and combining where relevant, psychological, psychoanalytical and sociological understandings of the self and society
- Understand the shaping of identities in different cultural contexts and social settings
- Have knowledge of how to plan, carry out and write up a research project
- Have an understanding of the different psychosocial stages of human development

- Demonstrate an awareness of various categories of mental illness, of different models for understanding those difficulties and the implications of those models.
- Apply psychosocial understandings to the study of social and cultural modes of difference including gender and sexualities, 'race' and ethnicities
- To understand the nature and significance of contextual theory, policy, ethics and equality as it affects work with children, young people and families.
- To apply concepts, theories and methods used in theory to the practical application of community intervention
- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of leadership, management and research environment which support and challenge work with children, young people and families

Thinking skills

- Assess the merits of competing explanations of human behaviour
- Recognise contrasting explanations of events and evaluate those contrasts in a critical way
- Contrast points of view and discuss them
- Understand the ethical dimensions of research
- Have an awareness of group processes and interaction
- To articulate and reflect on the motivations, actions and outcomes of professional practice work in the field.
- To understand the social, emotional, political and environmental factors which impact lives and professional practice.
- To understand multi-faceted needs of those in and working with children, families and young people.

Subject-Based Practical skills

- Carry out a small research project
- Obtain qualitative data
- Be able to interpret qualitative research data
- Have a critical awareness of qualitative research methods such as drawing up a questionnaire, interview techniques, library research methods and textual analysis
- To develop ethical, theoretical and appropriate intervention and support methods for working with a variety of needs and communities.
- To develop and establish professional communication and interactional skills suitable for work with communities on a variety of levels.
- To understand and implement appropriate strategies for safeguarding, support and risk in working with children, young people and adults

Skills for life and work (general skills)

- Understand the processes of job hunting and career development in a relevant field
- To develop an awareness of the underlying dynamics of communication processes in one-to-one and group contexts
- Problem solve and present solutions in a clear and effective manner
- Have an understanding of the different psychosocial stages of stages of human development and feeling and apply this knowledge in different social and cultural settings.
- Have acquired research skills that can be applied in a range of practice contexts
- Have acquired a social and cultural awareness of psychosocial issues and the capacity to reflect upon those issues in a critical and reasoned manner

- To develop and utilise appropriate personal and professional reflection & reflexive techniques
- To use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including where appropriate, statistical or numerical information
- To work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management.
- To collaborate with others to achieve common goals through group work and presentations

Learning and Teaching

We use a range of teaching and learning methods to guide you throughout the course.

Knowledge is developed through:

- Lectures and online learning materials
- Guided reading
- Knowledge-based activities with feedback
- Online discussions and activities
- Individual personal tutorial support
- Personal journals and reflective logs
- Fieldwork practice through work-based learning experience
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Thinking skills are developed through

- Reflective activities with feedback
- Linking conceptual and empirical work
- Online discussions and activities
- Classroom workshops
- The use of photography
- Engaging with a range of research methods

Practical skills are developed through

- Research skills-based activities with feedback
- Writing in a range of formats and lengths
- Class debates and presentations

Skills for life and work (general skills) are developed through

- The demands of the study medium (e.g. distance or independent learning)
- Planning activities with feedback
- Project work
- Managing workload

Assessment

On this degree we use a range of assessment methods to ensure students have engaged with the learning outcomes of our modules:

Knowledge is assessed by:

- Essays
- Plans
- Presentations
- Journals
- Blogs
- Portfolios
- Photography
- Case studies

Thinking skills are assessed by:

- Reflective logs
- Project work
- Poster presentations
- Research reports
- Case studies
- Responses to reflective questions

Practical skills are assessed by:

- Research proposals
- Portfolios
- Blogs
- Presentations
- Practice learning log
- Fieldwork practice experience

Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by:

- Project work
- Group work
- Research reports
- Use of information technology in assessment

Students with disabilities and/or particular learning needs should discuss assessments with the Course Leader to ensure they are able to fully engage with all assessment within the course.

Work or Study Placements

There are a range of ways in which core career competencies are embedded in this degree course. At level 4 you will be introduced to UEL Vision 2028's 'UEL Graduate Attributes', to be developed on your degree. These are the psychological and physical determinants of human performance that are difficult or impossible to replicate using Artificial Intelligence (AI). By the time they graduate, students will have been trained in specific and general transferrable 'graduate' skills and capacities in order to enhance their employability in the context of 4IR.

Students will engage in live, applied projects with their local communities, linking directly to local companies, social enterprises and charities. They will have opportunities to obtain awards, sponsorships and industry sector endorsements of dimensions of their learning. They will also develop the knowledge and skills required for professional practice with service users and change makers in the statutory and voluntary or social enterprise / tertiary sectors. Psychosocial students will gain practice in preparing a graduate-facing, professional reflexive career portfolio providing the foundation for applications for work-based learning, internships or collaborative partnerships with industry / social enterprise organisations. They will develop their understanding of reflective practice and professional standards of conduct, performance and ethics in relation to guidelines which govern and regulate working with diverse service users and change-makers.

Students on the Psychosocial Studies degree also have opportunities to integrate up to 50 hours of work-based learning with their University modules, and will critically apply theoretical and research-based knowledge learned on their degree to real-life, 'work in progress' practice scenarios of their own and their student colleagues'. They will become more skilled at integrating their knowledge of current social policies and contemporary political debates with their real-life observations of the interventions and strategies selected and taken up by, and with, particular service user groups and change makers. Students may take the chance to develop their work-based learning through a final extended project that is presented to peer and professional audiences, bringing together their professional and academic learning across the degree

Course Structure

All courses are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 5 levels:

- 3 Equivalent in standard to GCE 'A' level and is intended to prepare students for year one of an undergraduate degree course.
- 4 Equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 5 Equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 6 Equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree course.
- 7 Equivalent in standard to a Masters degree.

Courses are made up of modules that are each credit weighted.

The module structure of this course:

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit Weighting	Core/Option	Available by Distance Learning? Y/N
4	SY4000	Knowledge, Skills, Practice and the Self (Mental Wealth)	20	Core	N
4	SY4012	Constructions of Identity	20	Core	N
4	SY4002	Psychology: Perspectives for Psychosocial Studies	20	Core	N
4	SY4001	Cultures of Intimacy: Psychosocial Perspectives of Care	20	Core	N
4	SY4013	Reflective Practice in Community Work	20	Core	N
4	SY4015	Relational Practice in Community Settings 1	20	Core	N
5	SY5000	Knowledge, Skills, Practice and the Self 2 (Mental Wealth)	20	Core	N
5	SY5001	Difference, Race, Diversity, Inequality	20	Option	N
5	SY5006	Children Young People and Families	20	Option	N

5	SY5002	Mad, Bad or Sad, Understanding Mental Disorder	20	Core	N
5	SY5003	Relational Practice in Community Settings 2	20	Core	N
5	SY5004	Counselling: Therapeutic Skills & Practice	20	Core	N
5	ED5075	Research Methods	20	Core	N
6	SY6000	Knowledge, Skills, Practice and the Self: Mental Wealth 3	20	Core	N
6	SY6001	Professional Practice in Communities 2	20	Core	N
6	SY6002	Applied Research Project in Social Sciences	40	Core	N
6	SY6005	Managing and Leading In The Not For Profit Sector	20	Option	N
6	SY6003	Health, Community & Activism	20	Option	N
6	SY6008	Constructions of 'Race' in Culture and Politics	20	Option	N
6	SY6012	Surveillance and Society	20	Option	N

NB: A core module for a course is a module which a student must have passed (i.e. been awarded credit) in order to achieve the relevant named award. An optional module for a course is a module selected from a range of modules available on the course.

The overall credit-rating of this course is 360 credits. If for some reason you are unable to achieve this credit you may be entitled to an intermediate award, the level of the award will depend on the amount of credit you have accumulated. You can read the University Student Policies and Regulations on the UEL website.

Course Specific Regulations

N/A

Typical Duration

It is possible to move from full-time to part-time study and vice-versa to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

Undergraduate

The expected duration of this course is 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time.

A student cannot normally continue study on a course after 4 years of study in full time mode unless exceptional circumstances apply and extenuation has been granted. The limit for completion of a course in part time mode is 7 years from first enrolment.

Further Information

More information about this course is available from:

- The UEL web site (www.uel.ac.uk)
- The course handbook
- Module study guides
- UEL Manual of General Regulations (available on the UEL website)
- UEL Quality Manual (available on the UEL website)
- School web pages

All UEL courses are subject to thorough course approval procedures before we allow them to commence. We also constantly monitor, review and enhance our courses by listening to student and employer views and the views of external examiners and advisors.

Additional costs:

The course might include walks and visits to locations off campus. Entrance fees *may* be covered, and you will need to pay for public transport within London.

Alternative Locations of Delivery

N/A