



HNC SOCIAL SCIENCES

GP1K 15/U143L

Academic year 2023-2024

1. Programme information

Programme Title: HNC Social Sciences
Duration: 1 year full time, 2 years part time
Accredited by: Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
SCQF level: 7

Further information:

- [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework \(SCQF\)](#)

1.1 Programme aims

The HNC Social Sciences is a cornerstone for student transition into Humanities Higher Education provision at the UHI. It provides students with a solid foundational understanding of the key social science concepts in Research, Psychology, Sociology, Politics and other subjects that can then be built on with further HE study and application. The course offers significant breadth across a wide range of subjects which complement each other in their explanation of the global social and personal world.

The HNC will offer students the opportunity to question and challenge commonly held assumptions and will enable them to develop the academic skills required to support those challenges in a robust manner. Students will be introduced to the importance of keen analytical research skills and will be supported to explore new ways of looking at their world.

This course is ideal for anyone looking for a change of career, a stepping stone into Higher Education or a chance to broaden their understanding of the world they live in. Combined with the diverse subject matter is the flexible nature of this course, offering students the opportunity to study full time or part time and, with some of the subjects offered online, there is also the scope to combine their studies with their working lives.

1.2 Programme delivery

This course is delivered over two semesters with some of your modules being completed before Christmas and others not completed until May.

Length of classes will vary but the majority of face to face classes will be 3 hours long, and any remote delivery classes between 1-2 hours long.

You will be provided with a timetable at the start of your course.

1.3 Programme content and structure

HNC Social Sciences			
		SQA CREDIT	SCQF LEVEL
FK8R 34	SOCIOLOGY A	1	7
J031 34	SOCIOLOGY B	2	7
FK8D 34	PSYCHOLOGY A	1	7
J030 34	PSYCHOLOGY B	2	7
J032 34	POLITICS A	1	7
J0H0 34	POLITICS B	2	7
J037 34	RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY	1	7
J02X 34	HISTORY B	2	7
FM43 35	CRIMINOLOGY	2	8
J11X 34	GRADED UNIT	1	7
Total Number of Credits		15	

1.4 Unit summary

J037 34 Social Sciences: Research and Methodology

This unit introduces learners to the role and importance of research in the social sciences. Rigorous and systematic research is what distinguishes the social sciences from common sense explanations of social behaviour and phenomena. An appreciation of the basic research process model used in the social sciences highlights to learners that social scientists follow rigorous procedures when conducting research. The application of data handling techniques and interpretation of key information are focused on as essential skills for learners at this level

ASSESSMENT

Learning Outcome 1: Open-book, the format of which should be agreed between the lecturer and learner in advance (essay, structured questions, poster presentation, oral presentation etc). A written response should be 800–900 words; an oral response 6–8 minutes.

This assessment will be during week beginning 3rd October

Learning Outcomes 2 and 3: Open-book, completed according to a prescribed format. It is expected that the learner will carry out much of their own research, although, if research is carried out as part of a group activity, it is expected that the learner will contribute to the carrying out of the task, and will report on the task individually, without collaboration at that point. The response should be 600 words approximately. To meet the requirement for *Numeracy Core Skill*, the calculations should be done under supervised conditions.

This assessment will be during week beginning 5th December

FK8R 34 Sociology A

This Unit is designed to develop candidates' knowledge and understanding of the discipline of sociology. The Unit will explore the historical and intellectual foundations of sociology and the key features of the sociological imagination. Macro and micro models of society are explained and analytical skills are developed through the application of key sociological concepts and theories to examples that demonstrate the way sociologists understand the relationship between the individual and society.

ASSESSMENT

Learning Outcomes 1 and 2: Open-book essay *or* structured questions with an expected learner response of approximately 1,500 words *or* an individual oral presentation *or* a poster exhibition with expected learner's response of 10–12 minutes in presentation or explanation of a poster. Any other method that is appropriate to meet the evidence requirements. Learners could also provide evidence requirements in the form of an individual blog or creation of a website, with approximately 1,500 words.

This assessment will be during week beginning 31st October

J031 34 Sociology B

This unit builds upon learners' knowledge and understanding of sociological thinking, perspectives, concepts and theories. The unit will enable learners to analyse and evaluate

sociological theories and apply this information to a selected range of sociological topics.

This unit is intended for learners who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of sociology and for those who wish to use it as the basis for further study.

ASSESSMENT

Learning Outcome 1: Closed book exam unseen structured questions.

This assessment will be during week beginning 24th April

Learning Outcome 2: Open-book essay with an expected learner response of approximately 2,000 words, or, set of structured questions with an expected learner response of approximately 2,000 words. An individual oral presentation or poster exhibition with an expected learner response of 12–15 minutes in presentation or explanation of poster or a podcast. Or, an individual blog, or creation of a website, with approximately 2,000 words. Any other method or combination that is appropriate to meet the evidence requirements.

This assessment will be during week beginning 13th February

FK8D 34 Psychology A

This unit is designed to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of the historical development of Psychology. The unit will examine four schools of thought in Psychology, explaining how each developed, as well as the key features that differentiate one from another. It will also develop evaluation skills as learners will evaluate each school. It is intended for learners who have a general interest in Psychology as well as those who would use it as the basis for further study.

ASSESSMENT

Learning Outcomes 1 and 2: Open-book essay *or* structured questions with an expected learner response of approximately 1,500 words *or* an individual oral presentation *or* a poster exhibition with expected learner's response of 10–12 minutes in presentation or explanation of a poster *or* any other method that is appropriate to meet the evidence requirements. Learners could also provide evidence requirements in the form of an individual blog or creation of a website, with approximately 1,500 words.

This assessment will be during week beginning 3rd October

J030 34 Psychology B

This unit is designed to enable learners to analyse theory related to specific topics in Psychology. Learners will also conduct research into a psychological topic. This unit is intended for those learners who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of psychological topics and for those who wish to use it as a basis for further study.

ASSESSMENT

Learning Outcome 1: Closed book exam of unseen structured questions.

This assessment will be during week beginning 24th April

Learning Outcome 2: Open-book essay with an expected learner response of approximately 2,000 words, or, set of structured questions with an expected learner response of approximately 2,000 words. An individual oral presentation or poster exhibition with an expected learner response of 12–15 minutes in presentation or explanation of poster or a podcast. Or, an individual blog, or creation of a website, with approximately 2,000 words. Any other method or combination that is appropriate to meet the evidence requirements.

This assessment will be during week beginning 27th March

J032 34 Politics A

This unit is designed to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of political concepts and theories of the state relevant to the relationship between the state and the individual. The unit will develop the learner's ability to explain different political concepts and theories of the state in a critical way, and evaluate and apply these

concepts to theories of the state. It is intended for learners who have a general interest in politics as well as those who would use it as the theoretical basis for further study.

ASSESSMENT

Learning Outcomes 1 and 2: Open-book essay *or* structured questions with an expected learner response of approximately 1,500 words *or* an individual oral presentation *or* a poster exhibition with expected learner's response of 10–12 minutes in presentation or explanation of a poster *or* any other method that is appropriate to meet the evidence requirements. Learners could also provide evidence requirements in the form of an individual blog or creation of a website, with approximately 1,500 words

This assessment will be during week beginning 14th November

J0H0 34 Politics B

This unit is designed to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of the UK and Scottish systems of government. Learners will study the nature of the UK constitution and decision-making processes, forces that impact on the constitution and decision-making processes, the roles and functions of the UK and Scottish Parliaments and Executives, parties and pressure groups, and the key electoral systems operating within this context.

Learners will also study concepts which relate to Scotland's constitutional position within the United Kingdom. This unit is intended for those learners who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of politics and for those who wish to use it as a basis for further study.

ASSESSMENT

Learning Outcome 1: Open-book set of unseen structured questions, or, an essay requiring a response of approximately 1,000 words across all questions, or, an oral response to set questions requiring a response in sustained detail for approximately eight minutes. Other oral presentation of approximately eight minutes' duration. Any other method that is appropriate to meet the evidence requirements. It is likely that if it is a written assessment it will take between 90 minutes and two hours to complete.

This assessment will be during week beginning 27th February

Learning Outcome 2: Open-book essay with an expected learner response of approximately 2,000 words, or, set of structured questions with an expected learner response of approximately 2,000 words. An individual oral presentation or poster exhibition with an expected learner response of 12–15 minutes in presentation or explanation of poster or a podcast. An individual blog, or creation of a website, with approximately 2,000 words. Any other method or combination that is appropriate to meet the evidence requirements.

This assessment will be during week beginning 1st May

J02X 34 History B

This unit aims to develop skills in evaluating and interpreting data from **one** of the following specified historical periods:

- Scottish Society 1789–1918
- British Social and Economic History 1850–1939
- Modern Europe 1870–Present
- Medieval British History 1189–1485
- History of the Gaels: Scots Picts to the Lordship of the Isles
- Modern British History 1603–1715
- 20th Century Europe 1929–45
- Ireland 1850–1923
- The Middle East 1949–Present

This unit is intended for those learners who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of history and for those who wish to use it as a basis for further study.

ASSESSMENT

Learning Outcome 2: Open-book set of unseen structured questions, or, an essay requiring a response of approximately 1,000 words across all questions, or, an oral response to set questions requiring a response in sustained detail for approximately eight minutes. Other oral presentation of approximately eight minutes' duration. Any other method that is appropriate to meet the evidence requirements. It is likely that if it is a written assessment it will take between 90 minutes and two hours to complete. This assessment will be during week beginning 12th December

Learning Outcome 1: closed book exam of unseen questions

This assessment will be during week beginning 17th April

FM43 35 Criminology

This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to a selection of topics and areas of debates that inform contemporary criminology. The Unit starts by examining how crime and criminal justice have been theorised and then goes on to consider theoretical explanations of crime causation and criminalisation. The Unit is completed by explaining the aims of the criminal justice and penal system.

It is intended for candidates who are progressing through HN studies in Legal Services, Social Sciences and Police Studies

ASSESSMENT

Learning Outcome 1: Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can: apply knowledge and skills to an explanation of how crime and criminal justice has been theorised that includes an explanation of one theory of crime and punishment, one major theory of inspection and surveillance, one major theory of criminal typing, one major theory of the normal and pathological. This assessment will be open-book.

This assessment will be during week beginning 31st October

Learning Outcome 2: Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills for Outcome 2 by showing that they can: apply knowledge

and skills to a critical evaluation of theories of crime causation that includes one major genetics study of crime causation, one major personality theory of crime causation, one major social/environmental theory of crime causation, one major gender specific theory of crime causation. This assessment will be open-book.
This assessment will be during week beginning 12th December

Learning Outcome 3: Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can: apply knowledge and skills to a critical evaluation of theories of criminalisation that includes one major labelling and deviant identity theory of criminalisation, one major theory of delinquency and criminalisation, one major theory of political economy and criminalisation, one major radical theory of criminalisation. This assessment will be open-book.
This assessment will be during week beginning 6th March

Learning Outcome 4: Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills for Outcome 4 by showing that they can: apply knowledge and skills to an explanation of the role and aims of the Criminal Justice System that includes an explanation of the role of key agencies within the Criminal Justice System concerned with sentences and disposals, the main aims of the Scottish Prison Service and the range of disposals available to the Criminal Justice System. This assessment will be open-book
This assessment will be during week beginning 8th May

J11X 34 Graded Unit

ASSESSMENT

For session 2023-2024 the Graded Unit will be the collation of the assessments submitted for Research and Methodology plus 2 from the following:

- Psychology A and B
- Sociology A and B
- Politics A and B

The grade will be awarded based on the strength of these essays. The grading process will be ongoing throughout the academic year and students will be given opportunities to discuss progress with their lecturers and PATs.

1.5 Reading lists, essential and recommended texts and library services

3.8.1 Reading lists

Your tutor may have set up these reading lists in the UHI Reading List system, [Talis Aspire](#). To find your list, simply type the name of your course into the search box. Not all lists will appear on the system.

3.8.2 Essential texts

You will use these texts frequently in the course and need to ensure that you have access to copies. All essential texts are normally available from the UHI library, in either electronic or print format. You may want to purchase your own, either new or second hand.

Research and Methodology	
Core Resource 1	
Author	Bruce Curtis and Cate Curtis
Title	Social Research: A Practical Introduction
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	2011
Publisher	SAGE Publicaiotns Inc
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work AVAILABLE AS EBOOK THROUGH UHI LIBRARIES – no purchase necessary
Core Resource 2	
Author	Geoff Payne and Judy Payne
Title	Key Concepts ion Social Research
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	2004
Publisher	SAGE Publicaiotns Inc
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work AVAILABLE AS EBOOK THROUGH UHI LIBRARIES – no purchase necessary

Sociology A and Sociology B	
Core Resource 1	
Author	John Macionis
Title	Sociology: A Global Introduction
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	2011, 5 th edition
Publisher	Pearson Education Limited
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work AVAILABLE AS EBOOK THROUGH UHI LIBRARIES – no purchase necessary
Core Resource 2	
Author	Michael Haralambos and Martin Holborn

Title	Sociology Themes and Perspectives
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	6 th 7 th or 8 th edition
Publisher	Harper Collins
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work

Psychology A and Psychology B	
Core Resource 1	
Author	Tony Malim and Ann Birch
Title	Introductory Psychology
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	1998
Publisher	Palgrave
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work AVAILABLE AS EBOOK THROUGH UHI LIBRARIES – no purchase necessary
Core Resource 2	
Author	Richard Gross
Title	Psychology The Science of Mind and Behaviour
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	6 th or 7 th editions
Publisher	Hodder Education
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work 2015 EDITION AVAILABLE AS EBOOK THROUGH UHI LIBRARIES – no purchase necessary

Politics A and Politics B	
Core Resource 1	
Author	Andrew Heywood
Title	Politics
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	3 rd edition (see note – details listed for 4 th ed)
Publisher	Palgrave
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work

History B	
Core Resource 1	
Author	Stuart Miller
Title	Mastering Modern European History
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	1997, 2 nd edition
Publisher	Palgrave
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work

Unit title and code: Criminology FM4335	
Core Resource 1	
Author	Tim Newburn
Title	Criminology
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	3 rd edition
Publisher	Wilan Publishing
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work

3.8.3 Recommended texts

You are not required to purchase these texts, although you may wish to. Many recommended texts are also available from the UHI library.

Politics A and B	
Recommended Resource 1	
Author	Neil McGarvey and Paul Cairney
Title	Scottish Politics: A Introduction
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	2008 (recommend moving to 2013 edition – details below)
Publisher	Palgrave
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work
Recommended Resource 2	
Author	Bill Jones
Title	British Politics: The Basics
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	2015
Publisher	Routledge
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work

Criminology	
Recommended Resource 1	
Author	Mike Maguire, Rod Morgan and Rob Reiner
Title	The Oxford Handbook of Criminology
Journal title (if journal article)	
Edition/Pub date or volume.no. of journal	6 th
Publisher	Oxford University Press
Page ranges/ chapters or whole work?	Whole work

3.8.4 Library services

The library service is free to all students enrolled on any course. Student library accounts are created at course registration, with the student ID number being the library number. Resources in any library are available to all staff and students.

The UHI library web pages can be found at [UHI libraries Website](#) or from the side bar on your MyDay Portal.

The following core services are available at all campus library/learning resource centres:

- access to a range of books for loan and reference, and journals, which support the courses offered
- access to all resources held across the network through inter-site loan (speak to your librarian), subject to local rules on borrowing
- access to PCs and other ICT facilities and access to the internet
- access to online information such as electronic journals and e-books
- access to other UHI libraries
- Study spaces
- printing and photocopying facilities
- friendly, helpful library staff to guide and assist you using the facilities and resources.

Further information:

- [Your campus or UHI Library - LibGuides at UHI](#)
- [Using the libraries](#)

3.8.5 Online library facilities

- The [library catalogue](#) can be viewed from any computer with internet access, whether on campus, or off site. This covers Books, ebooks, journals, ejournals and collections. Don't forget to login to ensure the best use of this tool.
- Guides to [Library Essentials](#), library resources in your subject area and on related skills like referencing, avoiding plagiarism, effective searching – [Libguides](#)
- Subject [Libguides](#) will also give you contact details for your Subject Network Librarian who can offer you additional help with finding appropriate resources.

Further information:

- Your [Campus library contact](#) for UHI
- [Using the libraries](#)

1.6 Progression

