

## Minor Specification

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### Social Policy

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Name of minor	Social Policy
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Social Policy and Administration
Faculty that owns the minor	Social Sciences
Minor Leader	Paul Bridgen
Date specification was written	17/12/19

### Overview of Minor

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#### 1 Brief outline of the minor

This minor enables students to investigate and acquire competence in the issues, theories and methodologies which are central to the study of social welfare provision in modern societies. Students will learn how to conceptualise social risks, social problems, social policies and welfare states and they will study explanations for why so many societies adopted collective provisions to protect health, offer education and protect against income loss caused by unemployment or ageing.

Students will engage with challenges to social policies such as globalisation, increased life expectancy or increased expectations of wealthier citizens.

#### 2 Learning and teaching

The learning and teaching methods provide you with knowledge of the key concepts and arguments, and you will be able to apply this knowledge in various contexts.

In addition, a key objective is to ensure that you are able to use a range of qualitative and quantitative research techniques appropriately and effectively. Lectures are complemented by seminars and group activities and discussions, often being student led and involving presentations.

#### 3 Assessment

In each part, the assessment methods allow you to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes. Part 1 is primarily by examination and essay.

Most Part 2 modules are also assessed by examination, but in combination with other methods of assessment, such as short essays, group and individual presentations, or poster presentations.

In Part 3, most modules are assessed either by a single long essay or by a shorter essay in combination with individual or group presentations, poster presentations or some other method of assessment.

## Educational Aims of the Minor

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Having successfully completed the minor, you will be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of the central theoretical and methodological approaches in the study of social policy and welfare states
- An understanding of the processes through which issues come to be defined as subjects of social policy interventions, the factors shaping the formulation and implementation of policy, and the institutional arrangements arrived at in the UK and in developed industrial societies to address social policy issues;
- Capacity for the critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence and for the application of these in your own work
- Capacity to undertake independent enquiry into social policy issues, using appropriate methodologies
- Skills in written and oral communication, the use of information technology, the analysis of different forms of information, and working cooperatively in groups to achieve designated outcomes

## Learning Outcomes for the Minor

### Knowledge and Understanding

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The definition of 'social problems' and the shaping of social policy responses to these.
- Key concepts in the analysis of social policy.
- How to communicate ideas and arguments in writing.
- Communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations.
- How to work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management.
- How to collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals.
- How to identify, select and draw upon a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material as a means to develop and present arguments and evidence

### *Teaching and Learning Methods*

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work

### *Assessment methods*

Written unseen examinations, essays, reports, reflective logs, multiple choice questions, individual and group presentations are all used to assess the achievement of learning objectives

### Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate explanations to questions and problems
- Develop reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information, and exercise critical judgement
- Reflect on your own learning and personal development to make use of constructive feedback and opportunities for further development
- Manage your own learning and personal development self-critically and purposefully

### *Teaching and Learning Methods*

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work

### *Assessment methods*

Written unseen examinations, essays, reports, reflective logs, multiple choice questions, individual and group presentations are all used to assess the achievement of learning objectives

## Transferable and Generic Skills

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- Identify questions and select and draw upon appropriate evidence using a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material to investigate a field of enquiry and develop and present arguments and evidence
- Communicate evidence, ideas and arguments in a variety of different written and numerical formats
- Communicate evidence, ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations
- Work independently demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management
- Collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals.

### *Teaching and Learning Methods*

Lectures, tutor- and student -led seminars, group projects, independent work

### *Assessment methods*

Written unseen examinations, essays, reports, reflective logs, multiple choice questions, individual and group presentations are all used to assess the achievement of learning objectives

## Subject Specific Practical Skills (optional)

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Describe, evaluate and apply different theoretical and methodological approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information
- Identify issues for social policy enquiry
- Assess the ethical implications of your own research and others
- Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources
- Present scholarly work using appropriate formats and conventions

## Structure of Minor

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### 1 Typical content

How should we deal with educational failure, crime, racism, poverty, homelessness? Why do inequalities related to gender, race and class persist and how are they affected by social policies? What role does family, community, the market and the state play for our welfare? Students of Social Policy focus on how social policies and welfare states emerge and how they deal with social risks, social inequalities and social transformations. As a student taking the minor in Social Policy you will develop the reading, writing and oral communication skills needed to engage with these questions and be encouraged to identify your own.

### 2 Special features of the programme

You will be taught by experts who are active researchers and passionate about their subjects. They are also experienced teachers who enjoy engaging students. Moreover, we emphasise employability and practical applicability throughout all aspects of the Minor.

### 3 Details of the minor

You may not select modules that are incorporated as core or compulsory on your Major programme of study.

*Back Tracking and Forward Tracking:* Back tracking and forward tracking by one level are allowed up to 15 ECTS/30 CATS.

Teaching is research led at all levels. As a result, the modules on offer vary from year to year as staff research interests and priorities develop and change. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer to students wishing to study for the Minor.

The minor consists of the following although not all modules may be available in any given year:

**Part 1: 1 module (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS) from:**

SOCI1003 Social Problems and Social Policy or SOCI1015 Human Rights, Wellbeing and Politics

**Part 2: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS) from:**

SOCI2036 Globalisation, Inequalities and Power

Plus

DEMO2008 Population and Reproductive Health

SOCI2003 Gender and Society\*

SOCI2017 Class Structure and Social Inequality\*

SOCI2032 Migration in a Globalising World\*

UOSM2004 Global Health

UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China

UOSM2022 Social Enterprise\*

UOSM2030 Body and Society

\*Recommended

**Part 3: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS) from:**

SOCI3002 Comparing Welfare States: Evolution, Politics and Impact

Plus

You can only take SOCI3087 if you have not previously taken SOCI2032, and can only take SOCI3083 if you have not taken SOCI2017. You cannot do a module twice

CRIM3014 The Deserving and Undeserving: Victims and Scroungers in Criminology and Social Policy\*

DEMO3003 Migration

EDUC3025 Social Justice and Inclusive Education

GEOG3053 Geographies for Social Justice, Welfare & Right\*

SOCI3008 Sociology of Youth

SOCI3074 Collective Action and Social Change\*

SOCI3083 Class Structure and Social Inequality\*

SOCI3087 Migration in a Globalising World\*

UOSM2004 Global Health

UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China

UOSM2022 Social Enterprise\*

UOSM2030 Body and Society

\*Recommended

Dissertation - students in Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology are also strongly encouraged to undertake the policy-oriented dissertation.

#### **4 Progression Requirements**

The programme, of which this minor comprises a part, follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found on the minor website at <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page>.

## Revision History

1. Traute Meyer 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013
2. CQA team 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014
3. CQA team July 2015
4. Silke Roth July 2015
5. CQA team July 2016
6. Silke Roth/Paul Bridgen August 2016
7. Paul Bridgen (HoTP SSPC) August 2017
8. S. Casey 18/19 Revisions as approved by QAM on 26/03/18
9. H. Lintott 19/20 revisions 16/05/19
10. P. Bridgen 19/20 revisions 17/12/19