# Module Specification

## ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This module specification applies for the academic year 2018-19

Last revised 13 August 2018 by Kathryn Oliver

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module name</th>
<th>Principles of Social Research</th>
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<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>1104</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module Organisers</td>
<td>Kathryn Oliver and Ford Hickson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kathryn.oliver@lshtm.ac.uk">kathryn.oliver@lshtm.ac.uk</a>, <a href="mailto:ford.hickson@lshtm.ac.uk">ford.hickson@lshtm.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Faculty</td>
<td>Public Health &amp; Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Level 7 (postgraduate Masters ‘M’ level) of the QAA <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk">Framework for Higher Education Qualifications</a> in England, Wales &amp; Northern Ireland (FHEQ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>10 credits, within the larger 60-credit Term 1 super-module for each MSc programme. Credits are not awarded for this module individually, but only for successful completion of the Term 1 super-module.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Not currently accredited by any other body.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Research methods, methodology, qualitative methods, surveys.</td>
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## AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND AUDIENCE

### Overall aim

To introduce the basic principles of practice and theory in social research and to demonstrate their application to the empirical study of health.

### Intended learning outcomes

By the end of this module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts in social research methodology
- Identify appropriate research designs for a range of research questions in health
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different research designs and data collection methods
- Critically evaluate published social research studies
- Demonstrate an understanding of how social research findings can be used in public health disciplines

### Target audience

This module is compulsory for students taking MSc Public Health, MSc Demography & Health, MSc Reproductive & Sexual Health Research, and MSc Public Health for Development. It is optional for other MSc programmes.
It is a prerequisite for the module Qualitative Methodologies (1700) and would provide good preparation for the following modules: Health Care Evaluation (1400); Medical Anthropology and Public Health (1802); Sociological Approaches to Health (1803); and History and Health (1401).

## CONTENT

### Session content
The module is expected to include sessions addressing the following topics:
- Methodology and philosophy underpinning social research
- Surveys (using surveys, designing questionnaires)
- Qualitative methods (data collection using interviews, focus groups, participant observation, analysis of qualitative data)
- Using documents for social research (e.g. policy documents, media and visual representations)

## TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

### Study resources provided or required
Module Information can be found on the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) containing information about each session and key references for the module.

### Teaching and learning methods
Ten weekly lectures, preceded by essential preparatory podcasts, activities and readings, and followed by an interactive seminar. Two seminars are based around critical reading of a selection of social science articles; the others are practical sessions in which students develop skills in refining research questions, interviewing, questionnaire design and qualitative data collection. Some additional reading is also required.

### Assessment details
The module is formatively assessed by an end of term progress test. This does not count towards the final degree. Formal assessment of this module is by written examination in June.

### Assessment dates
Formative assessments will take place on a date notified by the Module Organiser.
Formal written examinations will take place during the summer term in late May/early June.
Resit/deferred/new attempts at examinations will take place during the summer term in late May/early June in the following academic year.

### Language of study and assessment
English (please see ‘English language requirements’ below regarding the standard required for entry).

## TIMING AND MODE OF STUDY

### Duration
10 weeks at 0.5 days per week

### Days
Thursday afternoons
Lectures take place 2pm-3pm
**Seminars take place 3.30 – 5pm**

### Timetable slot
Term 1

### Mode of Study
The module is taught face-to-face in London. Both full-time and part-time students follow the same schedule.
**Learning time**
The notional learning time for the module totals 100 hours, consisting of:
- Contact time ≈ 26 hours
- Directed self-study ≈ 24 hours
- Self-directed learning ≈ 20 hours
- Assessment, review and revision ≈ 30 hours

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